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AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

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“Migratory waterbirds and people - sharing wetlands”

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN INITIATIVE
FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2012**

Prepared by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

CONTENTS

List of Acronyms	2
Executive Summary	3
1. Introduction.....	5
2. Expectations of the African Initiative	5
3. Activities Conducted and Outcomes/Milestones Registered over the Period 2009-2012.....	5
3.1 Recruitment of Personnel for the African Initiative	5
Outcomes/Milestones:	5
Activities:.....	5
3.2 Development of the Draft Plan of Action for the implementation of AEWA in Africa.....	6
Outcomes/Milestones:	6
Activities:.....	6
3.3 Implementation of the AEWA Small Grants Fund Programme in Africa.....	7
Outcomes/Milestones:	7
Activities:.....	7
3.4 Cooperation with activities of other relevant conventions and organisations in Africa	7
Outcomes/Milestones.....	7
Activities:.....	7
3.4.i Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species:.....	8
3.4.ii BirdLife International and Wetlands International:	8
3.4.iii Ramsar Convention Secretariat:.....	9
3.4.iv Tour du Valat and ONCFS:.....	9
3.4.v African Crane Conservation Programme:	10
3.4.vi World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF):.....	10
3.4.vii Der Naturschutzbund Deutschland (The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union - NABU):.....	10
3.4.viii The Abidjan Convention:	10
3.4.ix UNEP Regional Office in Africa and the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions:	10
3.4.x The Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS):	10
3.5 Provision of advisory services to the African Range States	11
Outcomes/Milestones:	11
Activities.....	11
3.6 Initiate, stimulate and support the implementation of AEWA-related activities in Africa.....	11
Outcomes/Milestones.....	11
Activities.....	11
3.6.i International Single Species Action Plans.....	11
3.6.ii Printing of the French version of the WOW FTK	12
3.6.iii AEWA African Regional Meetings	12
3.6.iv New projects in Africa to improve the capacity for the implementation of AEWA	12
3.6.v Improved representation of the Secretariat at relevant meetings in Africa	13
3.7 Awareness-raising on the African Initiative	13
Outcomes/Milestones.....	13
Activities.....	13
3.8 Promotion of the accession of new Parties from Africa	14
Outcomes/Milestones.....	14
Activities.....	14
3.8.i Recruitment of new Parties from Africa	14
3.8.ii Progress made with accession in other African countries:	14
3.8.iii AEWA promotion workshops	15
3.8.iv AEWA missions to promote accession:	16
3.9 Fundraising for Activities in Africa	17
Milestones.....	17
Activities.....	17
3.9.i Funding Secured in 2009	17
3.9.ii Funding Secured in 2010	17
3.9.iii Funding Secured in 2011	17
3.9.iv Funding Secured in 2012	17
4. The Future of the African Initiative	18
4.1 Maintaining the Coordination of the African Initiative	18
4.2 Future Implementation of the African Initiative.....	18

List of Acronyms

ACCP:	African Crane Conservation Programme
AEWA:	African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement
AMCEN:	The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
BMU:	Bundesministerium für Umwelt Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit - German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
CMS:	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species
COP:	Conference of the Parties
CWSS:	Common Wadden Sea Secretariat
DG:	Directorate General
EL&I:	Ministerie van Economische Zaken, Landbouw en Innovatie – Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation
ENTRP:	Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy
FIBA:	Fondation International du Banc d'Arguin
FTK:	Flyway Training Kit
GEF:	Global Environment Facility
GIZ:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - German Agency for International Co-operation
ICF/EWT:	International Crane Foundation and Endangered Wildlife Trust
IUCN:	IUCN: The International Union for Conservation of Nature
MEA:	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MOP:	Meeting of the Parties
MECV:	Ministère de l'Environnement et du Cadre de Vie - Ministry of Environment and Livelihood
MAECR :	Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et de la Coopération Régionale - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation
NATURAMA :	Fondation des amis de la Nature – the BirdLife Partner in Burkina Faso
NABU :	Der Naturschutzbund Deutschland - The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (BirdLife Partner in Germany)
NFP :	National Focal Point
ONCFS	Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage
PoA:	Plan of Action
PSC :	Project Steering Committee
PRCM :	Regional Program for the Conservation of the Marine and Coastal Zones of West Africa
PRW:	Programme 'Naar een rijke Waddenzee' - Towards a rich Wadden Sea Programme
RAM:	Ramsar Advisory Mission
SADC:	Southern African Development Community
SCA:	Strategic Cooperation Agreement
SGF:	Small Grants Fund
SNTC:	Swaziland National Trust Commission
SSAP:	Single Species Action Plan
StC:	Standing Committee
TC:	Technical Committee
ToT:	Training of Trainers
UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/DELIC:	UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions
UNEP/ROA:	UNEP Regional office in Africa
WIA:	Wetlands International Africa
WOW:	Wings Over Wetlands
WWF:	World Wide Fund for Nature
WetCap:	Project for Strengthening Waterbird and Wetland Conservation Capacities in North Africa

Executive Summary

The African Initiative, adopted at the 4th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP4) in September 2008, aims to promote the implementation of AEWA in the African region. The current report describes the activities conducted by the Secretariat under this initiative for the period of 2009 to 2012. A summary of the main outcomes and milestones under the different areas of activity targeted during this period is provided in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of the Secretariat's activities and outputs under the African Initiative over the period of 2009-2012

No.	Area of Activity	Key outcomes and milestones
1.	Recruitment of Personnel for the African Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Coordinator for the African Initiative, based within the Secretariat was recruited; • A part-time Programme Assistant to support with activities under the African Initiative was recruited;
2.	Development of a draft Plan of Action for Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A preliminary draft Plan of Action for Africa was developed; • An African preparatory workshop to finalize the draft document is scheduled to take place from 12 to 13 May 2012 in La Rochelle, France;
3.	Implementation of the AEWA Small Grants Fund (SGF) Programme in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first cycle of the AEWA SGF was launched in 2010; • Voluntary contributions were secured to further support the 2010 SGF cycle; • The second cycle of the AEWA SGF programme was implemented in 2011; • The third cycle of the AEWA SGF programme is underway;
4.	Identification of synergies and enhancement of cooperation with relevant conventions and organizations in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration was strengthened with existing partners working in Africa (e.g. the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, BirdLife International, Wetlands International, - ONCFS, Tour du Valat); • The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat increased its participation in relevant activities in Africa and increased the visibility of the Agreement; • Collaboration was initiated with new partners active in the region (e.g. the ACCP and CWSS);
5.	Provision of advisory services to the African Range States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment was made of accumulated arrears in annual dues by some African Parties; • More African Range States have been actively involved in AEWA issues; • Contact details for AEWA National Focal Points (NFPs) and contact persons in Africa have been updated;
6.	Initiate, stimulate and support AEWA-related activities in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One new International Single Species Action Plan (SSAP), for the Slaty Egret, was developed and funding is secured for two more; • The French version of the WOW Flyway Training Kit was printed and is being distributed in Africa; • One African Pre-MOP5 workshop was conducted and a second is scheduled to take place back-to-back with MOP5; • Development of a training module for AEWA National Focal Points and corresponding training courses are underway; • Funding was secured for conducting two training courses in Africa using the WOW Flyway Training Kit;
7.	Awareness-raising on the African Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An African Initiative leaflet was developed, printed and distributed; • A web-page on the African Initiative was established on the AEWA website; • Stickers have been produced and distributed for some AEWA species which occur in Africa; • Continuous updates were provided on the AEWA website and in the e-newsletter (sent out every two months) for AEWA activities in Africa;

No.	Area of Activity	Key outcomes and milestones
8.	Promotion of the accession of new Parties from Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new Parties from Africa acceded to AEWA and a few more are in the pipeline; • There was improved contact between the Secretariat and the African non-Contracting Parties to promote accession; • One national accession workshop was organised in Burkina Faso; • Two information workshops for accession have been organised for Non-Contracting Parties in Africa; • Official missions were conducted to seven African Countries to promote accession;
9.	Fund-raising for activities in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 800,000 Euros were secured to support AEWA activities in Africa over the period of 2009-2012.

1. Introduction

Resolution 4.9 on the *African Initiative for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and Their Habitats in Africa*¹ was adopted at the 4th Meeting of the Parties (MOP4) to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), in September 2008, in Madagascar. This initiative aims to boost the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa and significant progress has been registered in the implementation of the Agreement since its adoption at MOP4.

This document outlines the activities conducted within this initiative under the coordination of the Secretariat and highlights key outcomes and milestones registered since its adoption by MOP4 to date. The document is structured into three sections covering the expectations of the African Initiative, activities conducted over the period of 2009-2012 and the future of the initiative.

2. Expectations of the African Initiative

The Resolution on the African Initiative highlighted issues to be addressed in the African region. The Secretariat identified additional issues which needed urgent attention in order to improve the implementation of the Agreement in Africa. As a result, the following key activity areas were targeted to be accomplished by the Secretariat in the framework of the African Initiative:

- Recruitment of personnel for the African Initiative;
- Development of a draft Plan of Action (PoA) for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa, to be submitted to MOP5;
- Implementation of the AEWA SGF Programme in Africa;
- Identification of synergies and enhancement of cooperation with relevant conventions and organisations in Africa;
- Provision of advisory services to African Range States;
- To initiate, stimulate and support AEWA-related activities in Africa;
- Awareness-raising on the African Initiative;
- Promotion of the accession of new Parties from Africa;
- Fund-raising for activities in Africa.

3. Activities Conducted and Outcomes/Milestones Registered over the Period 2009-2012

This section provides details on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat in the framework of the African Initiative, particularly through the action of the Coordinator for the African Initiative, for each of the key activity areas outlined in [section 2](#).

3.1 Recruitment of Personnel for the African Initiative

Outcomes/Milestones:

- A Coordinator for the African Initiative, based within the Secretariat was recruited;
- A part-time Programme Assistant to support with activities under the African Initiative was recruited.

Activities:

The AEWA core budget, adopted by Resolution 4.8, allocated funding for official travel for an African Coordinator and some activities towards implementing the African Initiative. However, no funding was allocated for the recruitment of this Coordinator, which therefore depended on voluntary contributions. Resolution 4.9 further requested the Parties to “*provide the financial resources or in-kind human resources to establish a post for an Officer to coordinate AEWA activities in Africa within the AEWA Secretariat*”.

¹ Resolution 4.9: http://www.unep-awa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/final_res_pdf/res4_9_conservation_in_africa_final.pdf

After MOP4 in 2008, the Secretariat made efforts to fundraise for the post of the Coordinator for the African Initiative, which resulted in a significant voluntary contribution from the French Government for the period of 2009-2011. The activities of the African Initiative were thus launched with the recruitment of the Coordinator for the African Initiative (Ms Evelyn Parh Moloko), who entered on duty in August 2009.

Owing to the significant volume of administrative tasks associated with the activities to be implemented under the initiative, a part-time Programme Assistant (Ms Birgit Drerup) was recruited in January 2010, to support particularly with logistical preparations for meetings, workshops and daily administrative tasks, amongst other tasks.

3.2 Development of the Draft Plan of Action for the implementation of AEWA in Africa

Outcomes/Milestones:

- A preliminary draft Plan of Action was developed;
- An African regional preparatory workshop for MOP5 which aims to finalise the draft document, is scheduled to take place from 12-13 May 2012 in La Rochelle, France.

Activities:

Resolution 4.9 instructs the Secretariat to draft a Plan of Action for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa, to be submitted to MOP5. The key problems and needs for migratory waterbird conservation in the African region were assessed through a review of existing information and work done under AEWA and by other partners (such as under the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP/GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project, AEWA Conservation Status Reports, the AEWA International Reviews, National Reports, etc.). The Secretariat, prepared a preliminary draft Plan of Action for Africa (Draft 1).

The AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 was used as the framework for the development of the draft PoA for Africa, in such a way that the document should serve as an operational guideline towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan in the region, meanwhile streamlining the PoA for Africa with the existing hierarchy of documents guiding the implementation of the Agreement. The Draft 1 was made available on the Technical Committee (TC) Workspace for consultation by the TC members in July 2011 and a revised version (Draft 2), which took into account the TC comments was discussed at the 10th Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee, in September 2011, Naivasha, Kenya (TC10). Following the recommendations of the TC10 meeting, a questionnaire was sent to the AEWA Parties in Africa and some non-African donor Parties and key AEWA partners with activities in Africa alongside a second revision of the document which took into consideration further comments from the AEWA TC10 meeting (Draft 3). This questionnaire envisioned obtaining further input from these target groups and responding to the main questions raised by the TC10 meeting.

In October 2011, prior to the distribution of this questionnaire, the Coordinator for the African Initiative met with some AEWA NFPs and contact persons from Africa in the margins of the Ramsar African preparatory meeting for the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11) to Ramsar² (for Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, Morocco, Comoros, Namibia, Burkina Faso) and the African pre-COP10/MOP5 meeting for the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and AEWA (for Benin, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania) to discuss the draft PoA for Africa and encourage them to provide their input for the further development of the document.

Upon analysis of the questionnaire (see document AEWA/MOP 5.31 for further details), it was decided that further input was to be sought from the African Parties and other stakeholders through an African regional MOP5 preparatory workshop (from 12-13 May in La Rochelle, France), prior to the 5th Session of the AEWA MOP. The African pre-MOP workshop aims to further strengthen and consolidate the input from the African Parties and other stakeholders thereby ensuring that the final draft document presented to MOP5 reflects the current needs and addresses gaps in the region, as far as possible. The organisation of this

² Ramsar pre-COP11 African meeting: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2011/ramсар_africa_regional_meeting.htm

workshop is made possible thanks to a voluntary financial contribution from the ENRTP³ Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA) between the European Commission - Directorate General (DG) for the Environment and UNEP. Further details on the development of the draft PoA can be found in document AEWA/MOP 5.31.

3.3 Implementation of the AEWA Small Grants Fund Programme (SGF) in Africa

Outcomes/Milestones:

- The first cycle of the AEWA SGF programme was launched in 2010;
- Voluntary contributions were secured to further support the 2010 AEWA SGF cycle;
- The second cycle of the AEWA SGF programme was implemented in 2011;
- The third cycle of the AEWA SGF programme is underway.

Activities:

Resolution 1.7⁴ of the AEWA MOP1 established the AEWA SGF Programme to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Objective 5 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 further targets activating the SGF programme and disbursing at least 100,000 Euros annually to developing countries under this programme. The AEWA Parties, for the first time, allocated 20,000 Euros per year in the 2009-2012 AEWA core budget, for SGF projects in Africa. Additional voluntary contributions were needed to achieve the target of the AEWA Strategic Plan. With the Coordinator for the African Initiative on board, additional efforts were made by the Secretariat to fundraise for the SGF programme, which resulted in additional voluntary contributions for the 2010 cycle, from the Government of France and from the Government of Switzerland, both for projects in Africa.

The SGF programme was thus launched in January 2010 with a first call for proposals for African countries only, given that the available funds were earmarked for the African region only. Advisory services were provided to project proponents and submitted proposals were evaluated, with guidance from the AEWA TC. Projects selected for funding were further endorsed by the AEWA Standing Committee (StC). The second cycle of the AEWA SGF was launched in May 2011 and the third cycle in April 2012.

For the 2010 SGF cycle, a total of five projects were funded from five African countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya and Madagascar) for a total amount of 93,071 Euros. For the 2011 cycle, two projects have been funded from two African countries (Tanzania and Ghana), for a total amount of 43,400 Euros. The sum of 20,000 Euros is currently available in the core budget for the 2012 cycle and the Secretariat hopes to secure additional funds for this cycle and future SGF cycles.

3.4 Cooperation with activities of other relevant conventions and organisations in Africa

Outcomes/Milestones

- Strengthened collaboration with existing partner organisations working in Africa, particularly the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, BirdLife International, Wetlands International, "Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage - ONCFS⁵", Tour du Valat⁶, etc.;
- Increased participation and increased visibility of the Agreement in relevant activities of partner organisations in Africa;
- Collaboration initiated with new partners active in the region, such as the African Crane Conservation Programme and Common Wadden Sea Secretariat.

Activities:

Article IX of the Agreement Text encourages the Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariats of relevant conventions and international instruments and other organisations competent in the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. Resolution 4.9 further instructs the Secretariat to "*envisage synergies*

³ENRTP: Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/environment_en.htm

⁴Resolution 1.7-AEWA SGF: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop1_docs/pdf/r7.pdf

⁵ ONCFS website: <http://www.oncfs.gouv.fr/>

⁶ Tour du Valat website: <http://en.tourduvalat.org/>

and to enhance cooperation with existing activities of other relevant conventions and organisations in Africa”.

Following the recruitment of the Coordinator for the African Initiative, there has been a significant increase in the Secretariat’s engagement in the activities of partner organisations concerned with the conservation of migratory waterbirds in Africa. The Secretariat has been represented at relevant meetings and workshops in Africa and AEWA issues have been mainstreamed into relevant regional and international policies, plans, strategies and activities. Delivering presentations on AEWA, its activities and possibilities for synergy helped to increase knowledge on the Agreement in Africa and thus increased its visibility in the region. This section describes some prominent cases of strengthened synergies with existing partners and new partnerships identified and built upon.

3.4.i Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species:

There has been a significant improvement in the collaboration between the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats on activities in Africa. The Coordinator for the African Initiative generally represents both Secretariats at relevant meetings in Africa, and promotes issues of relevance to both, such as the accession of new African Parties.

The UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats jointly organised the African regional meeting and training on negotiation skills for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in preparation for the CMS COP10 and AEWA MOP5 (see [section 3.6.iii](#) for further details).

Both Secretariats are currently collaborating towards training and improving the capacity of the AEWA and CMS National Focal points in Africa in the framework of the project on “*effective implementation of CMS, AEWA and other CMS-Family instruments across various regions and languages through capacity building*”, funded by the ENRTP SCA between the European Commission –DG Environment and UNEP (see [section 3.6.iv](#) for further details).

3.4.ii BirdLife International and Wetlands International:

In November 2009, the Coordinator for the African Initiative represented the Secretariat at the first Training of Trainers (ToT) course in Africa using the WOW Flyway Training Kit (FTK), in Limbe, Cameroon⁷. It was organised by Wetlands International Africa (WIA), in collaboration with the Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroon and with financial support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She presented AEWA and its African Initiative and discussed possible collaboration with WIA to promote further use of the FTK in Africa.

In December 2009, the Coordinator for the African Initiative represented the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats at the project development workshop for the four-year BirdLife/MAVA Foundation project on “*strengthening networks for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats along the West Coast of Africa – CMB project*”⁸, jointly organised by the WIA and BirdLife International. AEWA issues of key interest in the project area were reflected in the final project proposal (development of Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs), use of the WOW FTK for training courses, promoting the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) celebration, encouraging accession of new Parties to AEWA, etc.). The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat was also considered as a key project partner and member of the CMB Project Steering Committee (PSC). The Coordinator for the African Initiative also represented the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats at the launching of this project, during its inception workshop⁹ in April 2011, in Dakar, Senegal, at the project assessment workshop in February 2012 in Freetown, Sierra Leone¹⁰, and at the associated CMB PSC meetings.

⁷ WOW ToT Course, Limbe: http://www.unepaewa.org/news/news_elements/2009/wow_cameroon_tot_workshop_nov2009.htm

⁸ CMB Project development: http://www.unepaewa.org/news/news_elements/2009/mava_senegal_workshop_2009.htm

⁹ CMB project inception workshop: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2011/dakar_workshop.htm

¹⁰ CMB project assessment: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2012/freetown_workshop.htm

3.4.iii Ramsar Convention Secretariat:

Given the significant overlap with activities of the Ramsar Convention of relevance for migratory waterbird conservation, the Coordinator for the African Initiative has strengthened collaboration with the African unit of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

The Coordinator for the African Initiative initiated and organised the participation of the AEWa and CMS Secretariats at Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) in Africa, notably the joint Ramsar, CMS and AEWa RAMs to the Cayo-Loufoualeba Ramsar Site in the Republic of Congo¹¹ (June 2010) in which the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWa Secretariats were represented by Mr Sergey Dereliev (AEWA Technical Officer); and to the “Embouchure de la Moulouya” Ramsar Site in Morocco¹² (in October 2010), in which both Secretariats were represented by Dr Imad Cherkaoui (Coordinator for the AEWa WetCap Project). The Coordinator for the African Initiative also initiated joint efforts with the CMS and Ramsar Convention Secretariats to address concerns raised at Lake Natron Basin Ramsar Site in Tanzania (October 2009) and the Inner Niger Delta Ramsar Site in Mali (March 2010), for which official letters were sent to the relevant Ministries jointly by Ramsar, CMS and AEWa.

The Coordinator for the African Initiative represented the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWa Secretariats at the 1st meeting of the Ramsar STRP Focal Points in Africa (December 2010, in Johannesburg, South Africa). She was involved in the assessment and promotion of the joint tasks handled by the Ramsar STRP¹³ and the AEWa Technical Committee, of key relevance for Africa (e.g. effects of extractive industries on wetlands and waterbirds). She also met with common Ramsar/AEWa National Focal Points (NFPs) to discuss issues of relevance for AEWa and discussed possibilities for future collaboration with the African Unit of the Ramsar Secretariat.

In October 2011, the Coordinator for the African Initiative represented the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWa Secretariats at the Ramsar African regional preparatory meeting¹⁴ for COP11. She presented existing and possible future areas of collaboration between Ramsar, AEWa and CMS, ensured the incorporation of some issues of relevance for AEWa in the meeting declaration (see paragraph 13 of the recommendations of the resulting Ouagadougou Commitments¹⁵), and was involved in the launching of the French version of the WOW FTK at this meeting (which was jointly printed by the Secretariat and Wetlands International, thanks to voluntary contributions secured from the Governments of Germany and the Netherlands).

Joint efforts have also been made with the Ramsar Secretariat towards the recruitment of new Parties from Africa, particularly for Swaziland and Angola (see [Section 3.8](#) for further details).

3.4.iv Tour du Valat and ONCFS:

In order to strengthen the collaboration between the Secretariat and the Tour du Valat Research Station and its associated partners, the Coordinator for the African Initiative visited the Research Station in Camargue, France, in May 2010. She met with key representatives from Tour du Valat, the MAVA Foundation, ONCFS and the “Fondation International du Banc d’Arguin - FIBA¹⁶” to share ideas on activities in Africa and elaborate on future collaboration. For example, the need to update the ONCFS training module on the survey of waterbird populations in Sub-Saharan Africa was raised and is now accomplished by ONCFS. As a result of this visit, the Secretariat also initiated collaboration with the IUCN¹⁷ Guinea-Bissau office and the Regional Program for the Conservation of the Marine and Coastal Zones of West Africa (PRCM), regarding the incorporation of a migratory waterbird component in their Regional Program for Environmental Education, which is on-going.

¹¹ RAM - Congo: http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/ram/ram_rpt_66e.pdf

¹² RAM - Morocco: http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/ram/RAM71_fr_Maroc_Aug11.pdf

¹³ STRP: Scientific and Technical Review Panel

¹⁴ AEWa web article-Ramsar African pre-COP11 meeting:

http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2011/ramsar_africa_regional_meeting.htm

¹⁵ Ouagadougou Commitments-Ramsar:

http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/cop11/Pre%20COP11%20Africa%20Reg%20Mtg%20PDFs/Reports/Ouagadougou_Commitments_Final_EN_.pdf

¹⁶ FIBA website: <http://www.lafiba.org/>

¹⁷ IUCN: The International Union for Conservation of Nature: <http://www.iucn.org/>

3.4.v African Crane Conservation Programme:

The Coordinator for the African Initiative led the process of initiating new synergy with the African Crane Conservation Programme (ACCP), which is a partnership programme between the International Crane Foundation and Endangered Wildlife Trust (ICF/EWT Partnership) and aims to conserve African resident cranes and their habitats. She met with the Manager of ACCP, Ms Kerry Morrison, in Frankfurt (June 2010), South Africa (December 2010) and Bonn (June 2011); during these meetings, ideas were shared and consolidated on possibilities for collaboration. Emphasis was placed on the need to develop International SSAPs for the Wattled Crane (*Grus carunculatus*), Blue Crane (*Grus paradisea*) and Grey Crowned-crane (*Balearica regulorum*), which are all on the priority list for the development of AEWA SSAPs. Funds have been secured to develop the SSAP for the Grey Crowned-crane.

3.4.vi World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF):

Contact was established between the Secretariat and the WWF International Fresh Water Program, regarding the recruitment of Parties. In the case of Angola, the possibility of a Small Grant Fund from the WWF Fresh Water Programme to finance accession to Ramsar and AEWA has been under discussion with the Government of Angola. The WWF Fresh Water Programme also agreed to promote accession to AEWA in African countries where they have a strong presence, such as in Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

3.4.vii Der Naturschutzbund Deutschland (The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union - NABU):

The Birdlife International Partner in Germany, NABU¹⁸ has shown interest in AEWA activities in Africa. The Coordinator for the African Initiative met with a member of the Africa Working Group of NABU (Mr Werner Schroeder), in July 2010 and June 2011, in Bonn, Germany. They discussed common activities in Africa, such as promoting Crane Conservation in Ethiopia, waterbird-related eco-tourism in Africa and accession of new Parties. It was agreed that NABU will collaborate with the Secretariat and ACCP to develop Crane SSAPs.

3.4.viii The Abidjan Convention:

The Coordinator for the African Initiative led the process of initiating collaboration with the Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention¹⁹). She coordinated the preparation of the information note for the participation of the CMS and AEWA Secretariats at COP9 of the Abidjan Convention (March 2011, in Accra, Ghana), where both Secretariats were represented by the Vice Chair of the CMS Standing Committee (Mr Alfred Oteng-Yeboah).

3.4.ix UNEP Regional Office in Africa and Division of Environmental Law and Conventions:

The Secretariat, through the Coordinator for the African Initiative, initiated contact with the MEA focal point based in the UNEP Regional office in Africa (ROA), for collaboration in capacity building activities and promoting accession of new African Parties to AEWA and CMS. The UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DEL/C), through the Programme Officer and MEA Focal Point in UNEP-ROA, supported with the organisation of the joint CMS and AEWA African preparatory meeting for COP10 and MOP5 (see [section 3.6.iii](#) for further details).

3.4.x The Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS):

Upon the inclusion of the German-Dutch Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List, the Governments of both countries were requested to strengthen cooperation on management and research activities with the Range States of the African-Eurasian Flyways. In this light, there was a meeting between representatives from the German and Dutch Governments, the CWSS and the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats, in Bonn, Germany in September 2010. This aimed at brainstorming on the needs for migratory waterbird conservation along the East Atlantic Flyway, with a focus on collaboration with the African countries along this Flyway. This led to the international flyway workshop which took place in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, in March 2011, which brought together experts from Africa, Russia, Europe and the United States (including the AEWA Executive Secretary and Communication Officer), to discuss and make suggestions about international cooperation on the protection and management of migratory birds along the African Eurasian Flyway. Resulting from this workshop, the Governments of Germany and the Netherlands launched a Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative with two flyway projects. This includes one project on "*International Co-operation for the*

¹⁸ NABU website: <http://www.nabu.de/en/nabu/>

¹⁹ Abidjan Convention website: <http://www.unep.org/abidjanconvention/>

Protection of Waterbirds along their Flyways" which focuses on capacity building and is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). The second project on "*Establishing an international monitoring framework for Wadden Sea waterbird populations*" is funded by the Programme 'Naar een rijke Waddenzee - PRW' ("Towards a rich Wadden Sea"), on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and innovation (EL&I).

The Coordinator for the African Initiative met with representatives from both Wadden Sea Flyway projects in the framework of the BirdLife/MAVA foundation CMB project meeting (Freetown, Sierra Leone, in February 2011), and it was agreed that there will be collaboration between these projects and relevant projects of the Secretariat (particularly the CMS and AEWA capacity building project funded by the ENRTP SCA between the European Commission – DG Environment and UNEP). The Secretariat has now been requested to be a member of the Expert Advisory Board for these projects, which will be responsible for the overall task of advising the project management in various aspects of the project implementation.

3.5 Provision of advisory services to the African Range States

Outcomes/Milestones:

- Some African Parties have paid accumulated arrears in their annual dues;
- More African Range States are actively involved in AEWA issues;
- Contact details for AEWA NFPs and contact persons in Africa are updated.

Activities

The Coordinator for the African Initiative has been responsible for updating the African Parties with regard to the payment of their annual contributions to the AEWA Trust Fund. Additional efforts were made to encourage Parties with accumulated arrears of annual dues to make these payments. As a result, two African Parties paid arrears of 6 and 11 years and more Parties are currently working on the payment of accumulated annual dues.

The Secretariat's capacity to keep up with the day-to-day correspondence with the AEWA NFPs, contact persons and partners in Africa has significantly increased with the presence of the Coordinator for the African Initiative, who is responsible for advising these persons on various aspects of the implementation of the Agreement and referring them to relevant sources of information. She replies to their inquiries in the appropriate working language of the Agreement (English or French) and initiates contact with them when necessary. This increased daily correspondence and the direct interaction during missions to Africa has resulted in a significant improvement of communication between the Secretariat and the African Range States. The Secretariat's database for African contacts is also updated as a result.

3.6 Initiate, stimulate and support the implementation of AEWA-related activities in Africa

Outcomes/Milestones

- One new International SSAP (Slaty Egret) was developed and funding is secured for two more;
- The French version of the WOW Flyway Training Kit was printed and is being distributed;
- One African Pre-MOP5 workshop and training on MEA negotiation skills was conducted and a second African pre-MOP5 workshop is scheduled to take place back-to-back with the MOP5;
- The development of training material for AEWA NFPs and organisation of corresponding training courses for AEWA NFPs underway in the framework of a joint CMS/AEWA capacity building project;
- Two training courses will be conducted in Africa using the WOW FTK;
- The Secretariat has been more represented in relevant meetings in Africa.

Activities

3.6.i International Single Species Action Plans

Efforts were made to encourage the implementation of existing SSAPs relevant for Africa, as well as develop new SSAPs for AEWA species in Africa. For the development of new SSAPs, priority was given to the globally threatened species in the priority list for the development of SSAPs in the AEWA region (Table 9 of the AEWA SSAP review²⁰). In 2010, voluntary contributions were secured from the Governments of

²⁰AEWA SSAP review: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/meeting_docs_pdf/mop4_10_ssap_review.pdf

Switzerland and Germany for the development of an International SSAP for the Slaty Egret (*Egretta vinaceigula*). A multi-stakeholder workshop²¹ was organised jointly with BirdLife Botswana, with support from the Botswana Wildlife Department (March 2011, in Maun, Botswana). This brought together representatives from the six key range states of the species (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The draft SSAP was presented to the 10th Meeting of the AEWA TC in September 2011, and the final draft (document AEWA/MOP 5.25) is submitted to the 5th Session of the AEWA MOP for adoption.

In 2011, a voluntary contribution was also secured from the Government of Switzerland for the development of an International SSAP for the Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*). A multi-stakeholder workshop will be jointly organised by the Secretariat, BirdLife Uganda and the Government of Uganda, in October 2012, in Entebbe, Uganda, bringing together the key range states for the species.

In 2012, funds were again secured from the Government of Switzerland to develop an International SSAP for the Grey Crowned-crane (*Balearica regulorum*), which will be done in collaboration with the ACCP.

3.6.ii Printing of the French version of the WOW FTK

In 2010, a voluntary contribution was secured from the Government of Germany for printing the French version of the WOW FTK, with a view to facilitate the use of the kit for training in francophone Africa. The Secretariat, in collaboration with Wetlands International (with co-funding provided by the Government of the Netherlands), printed 350 hard copies and 400 DVDs of the French WOW FTK, which are currently under distribution, especially in francophone Africa.

3.6.iii AEWA African Regional Meetings

The AEWA Communication Strategy²², adopted by the 3rd Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA, encourages the Secretariat to initiate and organise regional workshops and meetings for AEWA National Focal Points, especially in those regions where the lack of resources and experience has led to a weak institutional basis for the implementation of AEWA, such as the African region. The AEWA African Pre-MOP4 workshop and Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) negotiation training was the first of its kind under the CMS family, but focused on anglophone AEWA NFPs. Building on this successful example, the CMS and AEWA African regional meeting and MEA negotiation training, in preparation for the CMS COP10 and AEWA MOP5²³ took place in November 2011 in Entebbe, Uganda. This was jointly organised by the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats, in collaboration with UNEP-DELDC and with financial support from the Governments of Sweden, Switzerland, Germany and the United Republic of Tanzania. AEWA representatives from Benin, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania participated at this workshop. The focus for AEWA was to train the francophone NFPs from Africa on MEA negotiation skills. All AEWA NFPs present were also updated on issues of relevance for Africa, to be discussed at MOP5, particularly the African Initiative and status of development of the draft PoA for Africa. They were encouraged to provide their input for the further development of the document.

Given the need for additional information from the African Parties and other stakeholders in the further development of the draft PoA for Africa, additional funding was secured from the ENRTP SCA between the European Commission – DG Environment and UNEP, to organise the African pre-MOP5²⁴ workshop in La Rochelle, France, from 12-13 May 2012. This workshop will focus on consolidating the views and inputs from the African Parties into a final draft PoA to be presented to MOP5.

3.6.iv New projects in Africa to improve the capacity for the implementation of AEWA

The Secretariat was involved in the development of the project proposal for the “Effective Implementation of CMS, AEWA and other CMS-Family instruments across various regions and languages through capacity building”, which focuses principally on the African region. This project is currently being funded by a 500,000 Euros grant secured from the ENRTP SCA between the European Commission – DG Environment

²¹ Slaty Egret stakeholder workshop: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2011/botswana_workshop.htm

²² AEWA Communication Strategy: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop3_docs/final_resolutions_pdf/res3_10_communication_strategy_engl_final_annex1.pdf

²³ CSM/AEWA Pre-COP10/MOP5: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2011/pre_cop_uganda.htm

²⁴ AEWA African pre-MOP5 workshop: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop5_docs/pre_mop.htm

and UNEP, and focuses on the African region. The focus was on capacity building activities proposed in the draft AEWA PoA for Africa to be implemented in collaboration with CMS and other CMS instruments in Africa. The project will run from 2012 to 2014, and includes the following capacity building activities of relevance for AEWA:

- The AEWA pre-MOP5 workshop from 12-13 May 2012 in La Rochelle, France;
- The development of a CMS family handbook on the roles and responsibilities of NFPs as well as the development of the outline of corresponding online training module, in 2012;
- Using this module for three workshops for NFPs of CMS, AEWA and other CMS instruments in 2013;
- Conducting two Training of Trainers (ToTs) courses using the WOW FTK, for anglophone countries in Southern and Eastern Africa and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, in 2013 (this will be run in collaboration with the on-going BirdLife/MAVA CMB project and Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative capacity building project);
- Conducting a CMS/AEWA African pre-COP11/MOP6 workshop and MEA negotiation training in 2014.

3.6.v Improved representation of the Secretariat at relevant meetings in Africa

The Coordinator for the African Initiative represented the AEWA and CMS Secretariats at relevant meetings, workshops, and events in Africa. In addition to the cases cited in [section 3.4](#) of this document, she represented the Secretariat at the WOW Critical Sites Network (CSN) identification workshop in the framework of the AEWA WetCap Project²⁵ (December 2009 in Mehdia, Morocco). She also represented the CMS and AEWA Secretariats at the 13th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN²⁶), in June 2010, in Bamako, Mali, where she ensured that specific issues on CMS and AEWA were incorporated in the resulting Bamako Declaration (see paragraph 55 and 59 of the Bamako Declaration²⁷).

3.7 Awareness-raising on the African Initiative

Outcomes/Milestones

- A leaflet on the African Initiative was developed, printed and distributed;
- A web-page on the African Initiative was established on the AEWA website;
- Stickers were produced and distributed for AEWA species which occur in Africa;
- Continuous updates were provided on the AEWA website and e-newsletter for activities relating to implementation of AEWA in Africa.

Activities

Efforts were made to raise awareness on AEWA's African Initiative and thus promote interest in support for activities under this initiative. In 2009, the Coordinator for the African Initiative led the process of the development of the information leaflet on the African Initiative²⁸, which was the first step towards promoting knowledge on this initiative. The printing and distribution of this leaflet was made possible thanks to voluntary contributions from the Governments of France and Germany in 2010.

The Coordinator for the African initiative prepared information for the establishment of a web-page for the African Initiative²⁹ on the AEWA website, and provides updates for this web-page.

In 2010, a voluntary contribution was secured from the Government of Germany to print stickers for some key AEWA species in Africa, with the aim to further raise awareness on these species and on the Agreement. These included the Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*), White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*), Madagascar Pond-heron (*Ardeola idae*), Slaty Egret (*Egretta vinaceigula*), White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresii*) and Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*).

²⁵ AEWA WetCap Project: <http://www.unep-awa.org/activities/wetcap/index.htm>

²⁶ AMCEN website: <http://www.unep.org/roa/amcen/>

²⁷ AMCEN Bamako Declaration: http://www.unep.org/roa/Amcen/Amcen_Events/13th_Session/Docs/AMCEN-13-CRP-2_ENG.pdf

²⁸ African Initiative leaflet: http://www.unep-awa.org/activities/africaninitiative/publication/african_initiative_leaflet.pdf

²⁹ African Initiative web-page: <http://www.unep-awa.org/activities/africaninitiative.htm>

In order to keep the AEWA Parties and a wider audience aware of AEWA activities in Africa, the Coordinator for the African Initiative prepared articles for the AEWA website and e-newsletter and reports to bodies of the Agreement. Examples include:

- A boost to migratory waterbird conservation along the coast of West Africa³⁰
- The African Environmental Ministers call for strengthened collaboration with MEAs³¹
- Successful AEWA Promotion Workshop held in Burkina Faso^{32,33}
- AEWA Small Grants Fund Programme (2010 Project Cycle)^{34,35}
- 2010 - A productive year for the African Initiative³⁶
- AEWA Small Grants Fund – launch of the 2011 cycle³⁷
- Report on the implementation of the African Initiative – 6th Meeting of the Standing Committee³⁸
- Party No. 64 joins the Agreement – AEWA welcomes the Republic of Chad³⁹
- African Preparatory Negotiation Workshop Empowers CMS and AEWA Negotiators^{40,41}
- WOW Products and Flyway Training Needs Highlighted at Ramsar African Pre-COP Meeting⁴²
- African Regional Preparatory Workshop for the 5th Session of the AEWA MOP⁴³
- BirdLife/MAVA Foundation Project Helps Strengthen Collaboration for Waterbird Conservation Along the Coast of West Africa^{44,45}

3.8 Promotion of the accession of new Parties from Africa

Outcomes/Milestones

- Two new Parties from Africa acceded to AEWA;
- Improved contact between the Secretariat and the African non-Contracting Parties to promote accession;
- One national accession workshop organised in Burkina Faso;
- Two information workshops for accession have been organised for non-Contracting Parties in Africa;
- Official missions were conducted to seven African Countries to promote accession.

Activities

As of August 2009, 24 out of the 53 African Range States had acceded to AEWA, with over half (55%) of the African Range States yet to accede. With the additional support from the Coordinator for the African Initiative, much effort was made by the Secretariat to encourage the accession of new Parties from Africa.

3.8.i Recruitment of new Parties from Africa

Out of the three new Contracting Parties which joined AEWA over the period of January 2009- March 2012, two are from Africa; Ethiopia (which became a Contracting Party to AEWA as of 1 February 2010), and Chad (which became a Party to AEWA as of 1 November 2011). This already constitutes an improvement with respect to the period 2007-2009, during which no new African Parties joined AEWA.

3.8.ii Progress made with accession in other African countries:

In 2009, the Coordinator for the African Initiative contacted all 29 non-Contracting Parties in Africa, with successful communication maintained, restored or initiated for most of these countries (93% success rate).

³⁰ AEWA website-Africa: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2009/mava_senegal_workshop_2009.htm

³¹ AEWA website – Africa: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2010/amcen_13th_session.htm

³² AEWA website – Africa: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2010/workshop_burkina_faso_fr.htm

³³ E-news- No.26: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2010/workshop_burkina_faso_fr.htm

³⁴ AEWA website – Africa: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2010/aewa_small_grants_fund_2010.htm

³⁵ E-news - No.26: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2010/small_grants_fund_programme_2010_fr.htm

³⁶ E-news- No.27: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2011/african_initiative_2010_fr.htm

³⁷ AEWA website – Africa: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2011/sgf_cycle2011.htm

³⁸ Doc StC6.10: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/fr/stc_meetings/stc_6/pdf/stc6_10_report_african_initiative_fr.pdf

³⁹ AEWA website – Africa: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2011/chad_new_party.htm

⁴⁰ AEWA website – Africa: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2011/pre_cop_uganda.htm

⁴¹ E-news- No.30: http://www.unep-aewa.org/newsletter/aewa_newsletter_30.htm#04

⁴² AEWA website – Africa: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2011/ramsar_africa_regional_meeting.htm

⁴³ AEWA website: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop5_docs/pre_mop.htm

⁴⁴ AEWA website: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2012/freetown_workshop.htm

⁴⁵ E-news - No. 31: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2012/freetown_workshop.htm

Communication has been maintained on a regular basis with these countries to date. Below is a general overview of major steps recorded in the accession processes in some of these countries:

- ***Zimbabwe:*** The instrument of accession was deposited on 8 March 2012 and the Agreement will enter into force in Zimbabwe from 1st June 2012;
- ***Gabon:*** The Instrument of accession was signed in May 2011 and is being transmitted to the depositary;
- ***Morocco:*** Accession to AEWA was approved by both houses of Parliament (June 2010) and currently awaits the final signature of the King;
- ***Mauritania:*** The bill authorizing the President to ratify AEWA was approved by the Council of Ministers (November 2010), approved by the lower house of assembly (December 2010), approved by the House of Senate (February 2011) and signed by the President (March 2012). The Secretariat continues to follow-up with the Government on the establishment and transmission of the instrument of accession;
- ***Comoros:*** The accession bill was approved by the Council of Ministers (December 2010). It is currently planned for presentation to the Parliament;
- ***Zambia:*** in August 2010, the documents requesting for accession to AEWA and CMS were approved by the Board of Directors of the Zambia Wildlife Authority (which is responsible for AEWA and CMS issues). The accession documents are currently at the level of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, which will forward it to the Foreign Ministry for final Endorsement;
- ***Swaziland:*** the country's accession to Ramsar, CMS and AEWA was approved by the House of Senate (December 2010), the King's Advisory Council (July 2011) and the House of Assembly (September 2011). The final approval through a joint Parliamentary sitting is expected in the course of 2012;
- ***Burkina Faso:*** Accession to AEWA was approved by the Council of Ministers in September 2011 and by the National Assembly (December 2011). The accession process is currently at the level of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for signature of the instrument of accession;
- ***Rwanda:*** In July 2011, the Law approving accession to AEWA was approved by the Cabinet. The Draft Law was approved by Parliament in December 2011.
- ***Cote d'Ivoire:*** The National Assembly adopted Law No. 2006-229 of 28 July 2006, authorizing the President to sign AEWA. In March 2012, a draft decree of accession based on this Law, was elaborated and submitted at the Secretariat of the Government for signature, in order to allow the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to establish the instrument of accession and transmit this to the depositary.

3.8.iii AEWA promotion workshops

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso:

Thanks to a voluntary contribution secured from the Government of Switzerland in 2009, an AEWA promotion workshop was organised by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Livelihood (MECV) in Burkina Faso, to promote the accession of Burkina Faso⁴⁶ to AEWA. It brought together 31 participants from MECV, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation – MAECR, Ministry of Economy and Finance, the IUCN regional office in Burkina Faso, the BirdLife Partner in Burkina Faso – NATURAMA, and the Secretariat. The workshop resulted in a declaration between MECV and the Secretariat including a roadmap which outlined the milestones for completing the accession process, responsible authorities and proposed deadlines for their accomplishment. The accession process is at the final stage (see [Section 3.8.ii](#)).

The Hague, the Netherlands:

Two workshops (in English and French) were conducted for participants from African States which are not yet Party to AEWA, in the margins of the 15th Anniversary Symposium for AEWA (on 13 and 14 June 2010, in The Hague, the Netherlands). The representatives from Botswana, Ghana and Swaziland attended at the English session, while the delegates from Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Senegal and Seychelles participated at the French session. The Coordinator for the African Initiative informed the participants about the accession process and benefits of accession to AEWA and the participants shared information on challenges faced with accession. Some representatives from AEWA Parties (Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal) shared enriching experiences on their accession processes and the benefits of being a Party to AEWA. General recommendations from the workshops included the need for informal networking at the

⁴⁶AEWA Promotion workshop – Burkina Faso: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2010/workshop_burkina_faso.htm

national level and the need for additional formal communication from the Secretariat, to reinforce the processes. Some representatives from African countries were sponsored in the framework of the African Initiative (Botswana, Seychelles, Swaziland, Comoros and Morocco), thanks to the voluntary contribution from the Government of France for this initiative.

Swaziland:

In December 2010, the Coordinator for the African Initiative initiated the process for the joint funding of the Ramsar, CMS and AEWA accession promotion workshop for the Swaziland Parliament (House of Assembly and Senate). It was organised by the Swaziland National Trust Commission - SNTC (the Government Authority responsible for handling Ramsar, CMS and AEWA accession issues). This resulted in the successful presentation of all three MEAs to the Senate (December 2010), the King's Advisory Council (July 2011) and the House of Assembly (September 2011), with the latter further approving these accessions.

Maun, Botswana:

On 5th March 2011, the Coordinator for the African Initiative organised a workshop to promote the accession of some Southern African countries which are not yet Party to AEWA, in the framework of the Slaty Egret SSAP development workshop⁴⁷ (in Maun, Botswana). This involved Government representatives and experts from Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Information was shared on the status of the respective accession processes and constraints faced, and participants recommended actions to be taken up by the Secretariat and at the National level.

3.8.iv AEWA missions to promote accession:

Southern Africa:

Stimulated by an invitation to the UNEP/ CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats from the Government of Zambia, a joint AEWA and CMS promotion mission was conducted for five Southern African countries. The Coordinator for the African Initiative led the preparation of the mission which was conducted by Bert Lenten (the then Executive Secretary for AEWA and Acting Deputy Executive Secretary for CMS). The mission included official visits to Government institutions and relevant NGOs in Botswana, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Swaziland, from 10-19 November 2010. It aimed at inquiring on the status of the accession processes, communicating the advantages of accession, encouraging the advancement of the accession process and discussing other issues of relevance for AEWA and CMS. This was appreciated by the Governments, resulted in additional information and stimulated significant progress the accession processes.

Cameroon and Gabon:

The Coordinator for the African Initiative conducted a joint Mission to Cameroon and Gabon, back-to-back with her participation at the WOW FTK training course in Cameroon (November 2009). She met with officials from the Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, including the Minister and Secretary General. The existence of an AEWA Committee with the task to follow-up on the accession process was highlighted. As a result of this mission, the AEWA Committee was revived and met for the first time in February 2010 and has continued to meet since then.

In Gabon, she met with officials from the Ministry of Water and Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development, including the Secretary General for Environment, Director General of Forestry and Director General for Environment. This led to the revival of the accession process, which is currently at the final stages.

Botswana:

In March 2011, the Coordinator for the African Initiative and AEWA Technical Officer met with officials from the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism of Botswana and the UN Resident Coordinator in the country, prior to the Slaty Egret SSAP workshop. These meetings aimed to promote accession to AEWA. The Secretariat thereby updated the AEWA and CMS contacts within the Government, shared additional information on the accession process and received proposals on possible ways forward. The Government strongly recommended bringing together principal Government officials concerned with the accession process and emphasized the need for a sub-regional approach for the accession

⁴⁷ Slaty Egret SSAP workshop: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2011/botswana_workshop.htm

of Southern African countries, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

3.9 Fundraising for Activities in Africa

Milestones

An amount exceeding 800,000 Euros was secured to support AEWA activities in Africa over the period of 2009-2012.

Activities

3.9.i Funding Secured in 2009

- The sum of 90,000 Euros was secured from the Government of France for the implementation of Resolution 4.9 on the African Initiative;
- Through a voluntary contribution secured from the Government of Switzerland in 2010, the amount of 35,770 Euros was allocated for activities under the African Initiative, including two AEWA promotion workshops in Burkina Faso (8,000 Euros) and Cameroon (8,000 Euros) and the development of the Slaty Egret SSAP (19,770 Euros);
- The total of 136,500 Euros was secured from the Government of France for WOW activities, in particular in Africa (80,000 Euros) and for the implementation of the 2010 cycle of the AEWA SGF programme in Africa (56,500 Euros);

3.9.ii Funding Secured in 2010

- The amount of 90,000 Euros was again donated by the Government of France for the implementation of the African Initiative;
- In the framework of the annual voluntary contribution provided by the Government of Germany, the amount of 500 Euros was secured for printing the African Initiative leaflet;
- An additional voluntary contribution was secured from the Government of Germany in 2010, which included the amount of 23,200 Euros for printing the French version of the WOW FTK and 4,500 Euros for printing species stickers particularly for AEWA species which occur in Africa;

3.9.iii Funding Secured in 2011

- A total of 51,000 Euros was secured from the Government of Switzerland for the development of the Shoebill SSAP (23,602 Euros) and implementation of a 2010 SGF project in Gambia (27,398 Euros);
- In the framework of the 2011 regular annual voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany, the amount of 9,385 Euros was received as co-funding for the Slaty Egret SSAP stakeholder workshop;
- Under the joint CMS and AEWA capacity building project, the amount of 500,000 Euros was secured from the ENRTP SCA between the European Commission - DG Environment and UNEP. This included 83,500 Euros for the organisation of the AEWA African pre-MOP5 workshop in La Rochelle; 79,900 Euros to organise two training workshops in Africa using the WOW FTK; 102,500 Euros to develop a handbook on the roles and responsibilities of NFPs for CMS, AEWA and other CMS instruments; 106,100 Euros to organise training workshops for NFP of CMS, AEWA and other CMS instruments using the developed handbook; and 66,000 Euros to organise a joint African preparatory workshop for the CMS COP11 and AEWA MOP6.

3.9.iv Funding Secured in 2012

The amount of 30,000 Euros was secured from the Government of Switzerland to support the development of an SSAP for the Grey Crowned-crane.

4. The Future of the African Initiative

Given the significant improvement registered in the implementation of AEWA in Africa through the African Initiative over the last triennium, there is a clear need for the continuation of this initiative. In order to at least maintain the momentum gained in the region, but also to develop and improve it, there is a crucial need to:

- Maintain the mechanism of coordination of the African Initiative within the Secretariat; and,
- Continue the implementation of activities commenced under the initiative and, as far as possible, implement activities proposed under the Plan of Action for Africa.

4.1 Maintaining the Coordination of the African Initiative

Given the limited capacity within the Secretariat in terms of staff resources, it is essential to maintain the current staff positions which have contributed to the successful output of the Secretariat's activities in the African region over the last triennium. As such, there is a need to maintain the position of the Coordinator for the African Initiative and the Programme Assistant for the African Initiative⁴⁸. The Secretariat can only continue with activities under this initiative and invest further efforts towards the implementation of the activities proposed under the Plan of Action for Africa with the support of these staff members.

4.2 Future Implementation of the African Initiative

In addition to African initiative activities currently under implementation, priority activities to be conducted in the African region over the period of 2013-2017 have been outlined in the draft Plan of Action for Africa, which will be presented to the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA. These activities are further prioritized into highest, high and medium priority activities, depending on the urgency and importance of implementation and funding. Any efforts towards the implementation of AEWA in Africa over the period of 2013-2017 should be guided by the Plan of Action for Africa, to be adopted by MOP5.

All AEWA Parties and Partners are strongly encouraged to contribute towards the implementation of the African Initiative, particularly the AEWA PoA for Africa, expected to result from the AEWA MOP5.

⁴⁸Details/costing for both positions are outlined in the draft Plan of Action for Africa (document No. AEWA/MOP 5.31) and the Secretariat's report to MOP5 (document AEWA/MOP 5.9)