**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TASKS 2012-2015**

**Introduction**

The AEWA International Implementation Tasks (IITs) for 2009-2016 were approved at the 4th Session of the Meeting of The Parties (MOP4) with Resolution 4.10 as the medium-term priorities for international cooperation activities for implementation of the Agreement. For the IITs 2009-2016, special emphasis was put on the support required for the implementation of the WOW/African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project and a quarter of the tasks were identified as matching funding for the WOW project. The IITs approved for by the AEWA MOP5 for the period of 2012-2015 is based on a thorough revision of the 2009-2016 IITs by the AEWA Technical Committee, taking into consideration projects implemented in the Framework of the WOW project, as well as updates of existing and newly identified project concepts. The implementation of IITs 2012-2015, similarly to the IITs from previous periods, has been fully dependent on voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties. Of the 30 tasks listed, 10 have been partly or fully implemented and another two have received funding and will be implemented in the near future.

This overview covers mainly activities where the Secretariat has been involved with some activities by Contracting Parties or partner organisations whenever they have been communicated to the Secretariat.

**Action requested from the Meeting of the Parties**

The Meeting of the Parties is requested to review the progress made in the implementation of the AEWA International Implementation Tasks 2012-2015 as a background to the considerations of the newly proposed IITs 2016-2018 (draft resolution AEWA/MOP6 DR13).

| **No.** | **Name of project** | **Funded by:** | **Executed by:** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLANS**The task has been revised and maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). Reported only activities where the AEWA Secretariat has been grant beneficiary. A thorough overview of the implementation of Single Species Action and Management Plans is provided in document AEWA/MOP 6.16**Lesser White-fronted Goose** * A coordinator post funded by Norway is based at the Secretariat.
* The AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group was convened in 2009 and has had two meetings to date (2010, 2012). The next meeting is scheduled to take place in 2016 in Norway.
* Several small-scale conservation projects have been implemented in Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Iran and Ukraine.
* Since 2011 the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is taking part in a six year EU LIFE+ project “Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose along its European Flyways”.
* The Committee for Captive Breeding, Reintroduction and Supplementation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (RECAP) had two meetings during the triennium. The member states of the Committee have since unanimously agreed to dissolve the Committee.

**White-winged Flufftail*** Coordination was outsourced to BirdLife South Africa and is provided free of charge to the Secretariat and the Range States.
* The AEWA White-winged Flufftail International Working Group held its second meeting on 10-12 August 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
 | Norway,Finland,EU LIFE+Germany | UNEP/AEWA Secretariat BirdLife South Africa, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat |
| **2.** | **DEVELOP NEW INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLANS**The task has been revised and maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13).**Shoebill*** Funding was secured for the development of the Action Plan and a multi-stakeholder workshop took place from 9-12 October 2012 in Entebbe, Uganda.
* The draft International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) was approved by the 9th meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee in September 2013, on an interim basis and has been submitted to the AEWA MOP6 for final endorsement.

**Grey Crowned Crane*** Funding was secured for the development of the Action Plan and the multi-stakeholder workshop for the development of the Action Plan took place from 10-13 September 2013 in Musanze, Rwanda. The Draft ISSAP has been finalized and is submitted for endorsement by MOP6.

**International Multi-Species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds*** Funding was secured and a multi-stakeholder workshop to develop the Multi-Species Action Plan (MSAP) took place from 9-12 September 2014 in Swakopmund, Namibia.
* The MSAP has been finalized and is submitted for endorsement by MOP6.

**Eurasian Curlew*** Funding was secured for the development of the Action Plan and the multi-stakeholder workshop for the development of the Action Plan took place from 1-3 October 2013, Wilhelmshaven, Germany. The Draft ISSAP has been finalized and is submitted for endorsement by MOP6.

**Taiga Bean Goose*** Funding was secured for the development of the Action Plan and the multi-stakeholder workshop for the development of the Action Plan took place from 12-14 of November 2013 in Tuusula, Finland. The Draft ISSAP has been finalized and is submitted for endorsement by MOP6.

**Long-tailed Duck*** Funding was secured for the development of the Action Plan and the multi-stakeholder workshop for the development of the Action Plan took place from 23-25 April 2014 in Roosta, Estonia. The Draft ISSAP has been finalized and is submitted for endorsement by MOP6.
 | SwitzerlandSwitzerland, Naturschutzbund  Deutschland e.V. (NABU), Bologna Opera Choir proceeds from their 2013 World Migratory Bird Day event, Koeln ZooSwitzerland, GermanyRoyal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)FinlandEstonia, Germany and Wetlands International | UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, Nature Uganda, Government of UgandaUNEP/AEWA Secretariat, African Crane Conservation Programme, Rwanda Environment Management  Authority (REMA)UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, BirdLife South Africa, Government of NamibiaRSPBFinnish Wildlife AgencyWildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Government of Estonia |
| **3.** | **MAINTAIN OVERVIEW OF THE SITES OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE FOR AEWA SPECIES**No fund available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13) |  |  |
| **4.**  | **IDENTIFICATION OF IMPORTANT SITES VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE**The task has been revised and maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13)* A project proposal entitled “Climate-resilient flyway networks in the African-Eurasian Flyway” submitted by Wetlands International to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) funding mechanism of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), was approved for funding in 2015. This project will build on the outputs of the Critical Sites Network Tool of the WOW project and aims at developing a coherent and climate resilient network of protected areas or otherwise managed areas of international or national importance for migratory waterbird conservation in the African-Euraian Flyway. It will directly contribute to advancing the implementation of this activity, with demonstration projects planned to take place in Ethiopia and Mali, with the close involvement of the AEWA implementing agencies and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.
 | BMUB IKI funding scheme | Wetlands International, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, Governments of Ethiopia and Mali |
| **5.**  | **HABITAT PRIORITIES FOR WATERBIRDS IN AFRICA** No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task has not been included into the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). |  |  |
| **6.** | **HABITAT PRIORITIES FOR WATERBIRDS, IN WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task has not been included into the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). |  |  |
| **7.** | **INCREASE THE KNOWLEDGE ON WATERBIRD HARVEST IN THE AGREEMENT AREA**The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13)* The project on “Strengthening expertise in sub-Saharan Africa on birds and their sustainable use for the benefit of communities and the Environment” – RESSOURCE - towards an integrated management of migratory waterbirds and wetlands in sub-saharan Africa, led by the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Developpment and Energy (MEDDE), was submitted for funding under the “Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial” and for co-funding by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage (ONCFS), Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental (OMPO), Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), Wetlands International, the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (MEDDE), Fondation François Sommer and possibly other potential donors. The project targets support to countries in the Nile Basin (Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan), Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Niger, Chad), Niger Basin (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger), Senegal River Basin (Mali, Mauritanie, Senegal). The project aims at identify and initiate/promote/improve implementation of innovative and sustainable management options, through pilot projects aimed at assessing the extent and impact of migratory waterbird exploitation selected wetlands of international importance. The overarching goal being to promote sustainable use/exploitation and management with the close involvement of the local communities and managers. The four major components of the project will focus on resource monitoring, resource conservation, resource use and capacity building for monitoring, management and conservation of the resources. The first phase of the project activities were already approved for funding under FAO in 2015
 | FFEM, FAO, MEDDE, ONCFS, CIRAD, OMPO, Wetlands International, Fondation François Sommer | FAO, ONCFS, CIRAD  |
| **8.**  | **COMMUNITY BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CBNRM) OF WATERBIRDS AND WETLANDS** No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task has not been included into the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). |  |  |
| **9.** | **EVALUATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUES OF WATERBIRDS**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13) |  |  |
| **10.** | **EVALUATION OF WATERBIRDS AS AGRICULTURAL PESTS IN AFRICA**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task has not been included into the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). |  |  |
| **11.** | **DEVELOPING GUIDANCE TO AVOID OR MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES ON HABITATS OF IMPORTANCE FOR WATERBIRDS**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task has not been included into the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). |  |  |
| **12.** | **DEVELOPING GUIDANCE TO AVOID OR MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS ON WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS**This task was implemented on collaborative basis with CMS and BirdLife International through a GEF/UNDP project. Please see document AEWA/MOP 6.37 (Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment) and Draft resolution on addressing impacts of renewable energy deployment on migratory waterbirds (document AEWA/MOP6 DR11). | Germany, Norway, GEF/UNDP | UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, UNEP/CMS Secretariat, BirdLife International |
| **13.** | **EVALUATION OF THREATS TO WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS EMERGING FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES**This task was implemented on collaborative basis with IRENA, CMS and BirdLife International through a GEF/UNDP project. Please see document AEWA/MOP 6.37 (Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment) | IRENA, Germany, Norway, GEF/UNDP | UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, UNEP/CMS Secretariat, IRENA, BirdLife International |
| **14.** | **INTERNATIONAL WATERBIRD CENSUS – REGIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SURVEYS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES** The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13)* A stand-alone report on this task is provided in document AEWA/MOP 6.24
 |  |  |
| **15.** | **SPECIAL NON-BREEDING WATERBIRD COUNTS**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13) |  |  |
| **16.**  | **MONITORING OF COLONIAL WATERBIRDS**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13) |  |  |
| **17.** | **PILOT DEMOGRAPHIC MONITORING OF WATERBIRD POPULATIONS**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13) |  |  |
| **18.** | **SURVEY WORK IN POORLY-KNOWN AREAS**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13) |  |  |
| **19.** | **PUBLICATION OF FLYWAY ATLASES FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS OF SPECIES**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task has not been included into the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). |  |  |
| **20.** | **DEVELOPMENT OF COORDINATEDMARKING SCHEMES IN AFRICA**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task has not been included into the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). |  |  |
| **21.** | **IMPROVING SURVEY AND MONITORING CAPACITY FOR MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS**The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13)Additional information on activities contributing to this task can be found in document AEWA/MOP 6.24* In December 2014 (Dakar, Senegal), the TSU to the AEWA African Initiative, in close cooperation with the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative, conducted a technical workshop on improving the quantity and quality of data from IWC counts, targeting data managers from Francophone AEWA Contracting Parties;
* In the framework of an AEWA SGF project in Ghana, training was organized for personnel of the Ghana Centre for African Wetlands and the University of Ghana in techniques for analyzing long-term population counts. This took place in July 2014;
* In the framework of the AEWA 2012 SGF project conducted in Uganda (on the Conservation of the Lesser Flamingo in the Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area and adjacent buffer zones), waterbird counts were conducted in the July 2013 and January 2014 period in the Salt Lakes in and around the Queen Elizabeth National Park, including at Munyanyange salt lake, Kasenyi salt lake, Kazinga Channel, Kikorongo, Bagusa, Maseche, Nshenyi and Kashaka Crater lakes and the Shoebill swamp. Training courses were also conducted in July 2013 and in March 2014 for different target groups on waterbird counts and monitoring (e.g. local guides, volunteers involved in the IWC, representatives from the Uganda Wildlife Authority, local community groups and the private sector);
* In the framework of the AEWA 2013 SGF project in Guinea (on Strengthening National Capacity for sustainable conservation of Migratory Water Birds in Guinea), support was provided for conducting counts in five sites (Tris Tristao Islands, Rio Kapatchez, Delta of Kankoure, Kassa-Ile Blanche and Marigot de Taidy), despite the disruptions on the project activities caused by the health crisis (Ebola outbreak). These counts were coupled with refresher training courses in the field on counting techniques;
* In the framework of the AEWA 2013 SGF project in Gabon (on improving capacity for habitat inventorying and migratory waterbird counts in Gabon), 35 technical agents were trained on waterbird counting. This included eco-guards, volunteers and NGO representatives who usually participate in the IWC counts.

  | FranceAEWA Core budgetUnited Kingdom, AEWA Core BudgetMr. Sergey Dereliev, AEWA Core BudgetMr. Sergey Dereliev, AEWA Core Budget | French organisationsCommon Wadden Sea Secretariat Centre for African Wetlands (CAW), University of GhanaNatureUgandaBirdLife AfricaGeneral Directorate for Wildlife and Protected Areas, Ministry of Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources, Gabon |
| **22.** | **REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT**The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13)* In the framework of a joint CMS/AEWA capacity building project entitled “effective implementation of CMS, AEWA and other CMS-Family instruments across various regions and languages through capacity building”, funded by the EU ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA) between the European Commission - Directorate General (DG) for the Environment and UNEP, the following technical training workshops on flyway conservation were conducted, including distribution of basic equipment for waterbird monitoring and survey (field guides and binoculars). These included two Training of Trainers (ToTs) workshops using the WOW FTK, for Anglophone countries in Southern and Eastern Africa (May 2013) and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa (January 2014), with the latter organized in close collaboration with the Capacity Building component of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) project.
* In June 2014, the TSU, in collaboration with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat conducted a mission to promote the incorporation of the WOW FTK into the curriculum of the Garoua Wildlife College, a key regional wildlife training institution. Further efforts have been conducted by the TSU in 2015 to further promote collaboration between the main regional wildlife training institutions in Africa, in the area of waterbird and wetland conservation - Garoua Wildlife College, College of African Wildlife Management Mweka, Tanzania, and Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute. This resulted in a Memorandum of understanding between these institutions and the TSU. A workshop on harmonizing the curricula of these three institutions in the area of waterbird and wetland conservation and the flyway approach is planned by the TSU in September 2015;
 | EU ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA) between the European Commission - Directorate General (DG) for the Environment and UNEP.France, AEWA Core Budget | UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, UNEP/CMS Secretariat, Governments of Kenya and Angola, Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative projectTSU, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat |
| **23.** | **TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AGENCIES FOR AEWA IN THE CONTRACTING PARTIES**The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13)* Under the CMS and AEWA ENRTP project on capacity building, the following activities are relevant:
	+ The development of a training manual on the roles and responsibilities of NFPs for CMS, AEWA and other CMS Instruments (CMS Family NFP Manual), as well as the development of a corresponding e-community platform for CMS Family NFPs in 2012;
	+ The CMS Family manual was tested for the first time during a joint workshop for NFPs of CMS, AEWA and some other CMS Instruments. It took place in Cape Town, South Africa, in October 2013. This manual was again used for further training purposes in the framework of the AEWA African Pre-MOP6 meeting which took place in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2013, equally funded in the framework of the joint CMS/AEWA ENRTP capacity building project.
 | EU ENRTP 2012-2014 | UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats, Government of South Africa  |
| **24.** | **TRAINING COURSE ON THE FLYWAY APPROACH TO THE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WATERBIRDS AND WETLANDS**The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13)* In the framework of a joint CMS/AEWA capacity building project entitled “effective implementation of CMS, AEWA and other CMS-Family instruments across various regions and languages through capacity building”, funded by the EU ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA) between the European Commission - Directorate General (DG) for the Environment and UNEP, the following technical training workshops on flyway conservation were conducted, including distribution of basic equipment for waterbird monitoring and survey (field guides and binoculars). These included two Training of Trainers (ToTs) workshops using the WOW FTK, for Anglophone countries in Southern and Eastern Africa (May 2013) and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa (January 2014), with the latter organized in close collaboration with the Capacity Building component of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative project.
* In June 2014, the TSU, in collaboration with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat conducted a mission to promote the incorporation of the WOW FTK into the curriculum of the Garoua Wildlife College, a key regional wildlife training institution. Further efforts have been conducted by the TSU in 2015 to further promote collaboration between the main regional wildlife training institutions in Africa, in the area of waterbird and wetland conservation - Garoua Wildlife College, College of African Wildlife Management Mweka, Tanzania, and Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute. This resulted in a Memorandum of understanding between these institutions and the TSU. A workshop on harmonizing the curricula of these three institutions in the area of waterbird and wetland conservation and the flyway approach is planned by the TSU in September 2015.
 | EC under the ENRTP Funding SchemeFrance | UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, Governments of Kenya and Angola, WSFIFrench institutions in the framework of the TSU |
| **25.** | **REGIONAL WORKSHOPS FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE AGREEMENT**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task is maintained in the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13) |  |  |
| **26.** | **REGIONAL AEWA INFORMATION CENTRES**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task has not been included into the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). |  |  |
| **27.** | **LINKING OF WETLAND VISITOR CENTRES AT INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT WETLANDS ALONG THE EAST ATLANTIC FLYWAY, UNDER THE MIGRATORY BIRDS FOR PEOPLE (MBP) PROGRAMME**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task has not been included into the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). |  |  |
| **28.** | **SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL AEWA IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUPS, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task has not been included into the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). |  |  |
| **29.** | **REVISING GUIDELINES ON THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLANS (SSAPS) FOR MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS**No funds available/could be secured during 2012-2015. The task has not been included into the list of proposed IITs for 2016-2018 (document AEWA/MOP6 DR13). |  |  |
| **30.**  | **REVISING THE CONSERVATION GUIDELINES ON SUSTAINABLE HARVEST OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS** * This task was implemented and draft guidelines submitted to MOP6 for adoption (document AEWA/MOP 6.36)
 | La Fondation François Sommer pour la Chasse et la Nature;Jægernes Naturfond, Denmark;Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, Aarhus University | Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group, Wetlands International |