



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

8th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
26–30 September 2022, Budapest, Hungary

“Strengthening Flyway Conservation in a Changing World”

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE 8th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES (MOP8)
TO THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRD AGREEMENT (AEWA),
26–30 SEPTEMBER 2022, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

DAY 1 PLENARY – TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2022 (09:00 to 16:30)

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. **Ms Flora Mokgohloa, South Africa, Chair of MOP7 (Durban, South Africa, 2018)** acted as Chair until the Chair and Vice-Chair of MOP8 had been elected. She congratulated the Government of Hungary for hosting MOP8 and recalled the 14 Resolutions that had been approved at MOP7 under the theme *Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future beyond 2020*, including adoption and implementation of the 2019-2027 AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa. She highlighted efforts being made by South Africa and Ethiopia to conserve the Critically Endangered White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresi*), as well as the partnership between AEWA and the Benguela Current Convention.

2. **Dr Zsolt Semjén, Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary**, expressed delight in hosting AEWA MOP8, noting that the conservation of waterbirds was a priority for Hungary. He referred to the historical role of Hungary in conserving the last-remaining population of Great White Egret (*Ardea alba*) in Europe, and noted that this species had since become a symbol of nature conservation in Hungary. He also highlighted the creation in 2021 of the Mura-Dráva-Danube Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, covering almost one million hectares, by Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia. Migratory waterbirds faced significant threats, and the availability of protected undisturbed areas along their flyways was our common responsibility.

3. **Ms Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** noted that AEWA’s policy and technical work contributed to the implementation of CMS, as well as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). She highlighted the many areas of cooperation between AEWA and CMS, including on lead poisoning and avian influenza, and in delivery of successful World Migratory Bird Day campaigns. At a practical level, AEWA and CMS had invested in a joint communications unit, amongst other areas of synergy.

4. **Ms Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme**, in a video message, praised AEWA’s strong track record of conserving wetlands and habitats, highlighting the need to address flyway conservation from the Arctic to South Africa, and underlining the importance of the ecosystem approach to conservation. AEWA had an important role to play in addressing the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

5. **Dr Jacques Trouvilliez, Executive Secretary of AEWA**, thanked the Government of Hungary for hosting MOP8, in spite of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. He also thanked members of the AEWA Standing Committee (StC) for supporting and guiding the Secretariat in preparing the meeting. He emphasised that whilst implementation of AEWA contributed significantly to meeting key priorities under other MEAs, including the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, additional resources were required to support implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and Plan of Action for Africa. The Secretariat could only work efficiently if states cooperated and if civil society understood the challenges, so communication was essential. The condensed format of MOP8 would bring additional challenges but enthusiasm and commitment would ensure adoption of a strong set of Resolutions at the conclusion of the meeting.

6. The **Chair** thanked all speakers for their opening remarks, following which a video showcasing Common Cranes (*Grus grus*) in Hungary was screened.

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

7. The **Chair** referred the meeting to Document AEWA/MOP 8.2 *Rules of Procedure* and opened the floor to comments or proposed amendments.

8. There being no such requests from the floor, the **MOP** adopted the Rules of Procedure without amendment.

Agenda item 3. Election of Officers

9. **South Africa, as Chair of MOP7**, recalled that, in accordance with Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure, a Chair and one or more Vice-Chairs of MOP8 were to be elected. She noted that the **Bureau of MOP8** had proposed Hungary as Chair. She opened the floor for possible additional nominations but none was proposed.

10. The **MOP** elected by acclamation Hungary as Chair.

11. Taking his place on the podium, the **representative of Hungary, Mr Levente Kőrösi, Ministry of Agriculture**, thanked the meeting for electing Hungary as Chair of MOP8. He paid tribute to the work of Mr Zoltán Czirák, former AEWA National Focal Point of Hungary, who had sadly passed away in March 2021, and who had been deeply involved in preparation of the present meeting.

12. The Chair noted that the **Bureau of MOP8** had proposed South Africa as Vice-Chair. He opened the floor for possible additional nominations but none was proposed.

13. The **MOP** elected by acclamation South Africa as Vice-Chair.

Agenda item 4. Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme

14. The **Chair** referred participants to Documents AEWA/MOP 8.3 *Provisional Agenda* and AEWA/MOP 8.4 Rev.2 *Provisional Annotated Agenda and Meeting Schedule*. He opened the floor to comments and proposed amendments on the Provisional Agenda, and invited participants to indicate if they wished to raise any matters under agenda item 34. Any Other Business.

15. **BirdLife International** indicated its wish to present an update to the MOP on the findings of the latest State of the World's Birds report.

16. The **MOP** adopted the Provisional Agenda contained in Document AEWA/MOP 8.3 and took note of the request of BirdLife International.

17. The **Secretariat** (Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit) presented further details of the proposed MOP8 schedule, which included a dedicated day of side events, and the in-session document workflow.

Agenda item 5. Establishment of Credentials Committee and Sessional Committees

18. The **Chair** recalled that establishment of a Credentials Committee was a requirement of Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure. He invited nominations from the floor and noted that the work of the Committee would be supported by the Secretariat.

19. The **Czech Republic, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, nominated the Czech Republic and France as members of the Credentials Committee, whilst **Eswatini, speaking on behalf of the Africa Group**, nominated Madagascar, Morocco and Zimbabwe. No other nominations were submitted.

20. The **MOP** approved by consensus the establishment of a Credentials Committee composed of the Czech Republic, France, Madagascar, Morocco and Zimbabwe, supported by the Secretariat.

21. The **Chair** recalled that it was usual AEWA MOP practice to establish two Sessional Working Groups: one (WG1) dealing with Scientific and Technical matters; the other (WG2) dealing with Financial and Administrative matters. He proposed to establish such Working Groups at this 8th session of the MOP.

22. The **MOP** approved establishment of the two Working Groups.

23. The **MOP** elected the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the two Working Groups as follows: Chair of the Working Group on Financial and Administrative matters – United Kingdom, represented by Mr Simon Mackown, with Uganda serving as Vice-Chair; Chair of the Working Group on Scientific and Technical matters – Hungary, represented by Mr Andras Schmidt, with Egypt serving as Vice-Chair. These Parties had previously indicated to the Bureau of MOP8 their interest in serving. No other nominations had been received.

Agenda item 6. Admission of Observers

24. The **Chair** introduced Document AEWA/MOP 8.5 *Admission of Observers*. This listed non-Party Range States, Intergovernmental Organizations, International NGOs, National NGOs and Other Observers. He invited interventions from the floor.

25. There being no such interventions, and in accordance with Rules 6 & 7 of the Rules of Procedure, the **MOP** decided by consensus to admit as Observers all those countries and organisations listed in document AEWA/MOP 8.5.

Agenda item 7. Opening Statements

26. The **Chair** noted that written opening statements from Contracting Parties, non-Party Range States, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations would be posted on the MOP8 webpage and also appear in the proceedings of the meeting.

27. The **Czech Republic, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“First of all, we would like to welcome the accession to the Agreement by the Republic of Cameroon and the announcement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the intention to join the Agreement. We would like to thank the Government of Hungary for its generosity and hospitality in hosting this meeting and for the very warm welcome we have all received from the local authorities and the people of the beautiful city of Budapest. At the same time, we would like to express our thanks and congratulations to the Secretariat, the Technical Committee and the Standing Committee for their excellent work on preparation of this meeting.

We are meeting in a difficult time - the COVID pandemic has affected our entire planet, affecting not only individual regions and countries, but also the lives of each one of us. We are witnessing that globalization can also bring challenges. On the other hand, it has become clear that international cooperation is crucial for solving crisis situations in various areas of human activity. We continue to believe that international cooperation is also crucial for nature conservation, including the protection of habitats, species and entire ecosystems. The protection of nature and natural resources should be an inherent part of state policy, it should be a regular part of education and a regular part of people's lives, not some superstructure that only comes into play in a crisis.

For the protection of waterbirds, which are the subject of the AEWA agreement, the conservation of their habitats - i.e. wetlands - is essential. Unfortunately, we see continuation of negative trends in many areas, wetlands are still decreasing and the global state of biodiversity is deteriorating. The representatives of the EU Member States present in this meeting are committed to ensure the future of migratory waterbirds, a group of animals whose existence is directly dependent on international cooperation. Waterbirds are an integral part of the planet's biodiversity; their migration routes connect our countries and remind us of our shared responsibilities.

Let's use this week to discuss and approve measures that will help. We as the EU Member States commit ourselves to a constructive discussion this week that will help to ensure the future of waterbirds, their conservation and sustainable use.”

28. Eswatini, speaking on behalf of the Africa Group, made the following statement:

“Africa congratulates the Government of Hungary and its people for their hospitality and hosting of MOP8, and appreciates South Africa for successfully hosting MOP7 in 2018. As a region, Africa looks forward to working closely with the government of Hungary as the host and President of AEWA MOP8; and recognises with appreciation the intersessional work of the AEWA Standing Committee, Technical Committee and Secretariat in preparation for this meeting.

The Contracting Parties are meeting at MOP8 under a clearly thought out and timely theme: *strengthening flyway conservation in a changing world*. In the next four days of the meeting, Contracting Parties from the African region will be collectively and individually making recommendations for the consideration of the MOP, based on what they consider would be the best approaches to ensuring that the integrity of habitats and flyways is protected for AEWA species and their conservation strengthened. Achieving this end requires collective and individual efforts by the Contracting Parties.

Africa recognizes the significance of AEWA and its contribution in the conservation and protection of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, especially those of global concern. Furthermore, the cooperation and partnership between Contracting Parties and regions, with

the support of the AEWA Secretariat, has proven to be effective, though in need of strengthening and enhancement. Africa also appreciates the support and contribution of Non-Governmental Organizations and Partners in advancing the objectives and implementation of AEWA.

It is of the utmost importance that all Contracting Parties are able to effectively implement the Agreement and its related activities at the national level. Africa therefore reiterates the need for mobilization of adequate financial resources for this purpose, as agreed in the previous MOPs. We note with concern that a substantial gap still exists in financing the activities of the Agreement.

Africa and other regions are aware of the economic situations facing both developed and developing countries, particularly as a result of the COVID19 pandemic. However, the implementation of this Agreement can be made more effective through the provision of assistance to some Range States for training and capacity building, improved partnership, implementation, research and monitoring of migratory waterbird species and their habitats, for the protection and management of those habitats as well as for the establishment or improvement of scientific and administrative institutions for the implementation of this Agreement. We also acknowledge the role of the core budget as being a critical component for promoting the overall implementation of the Agreement. To this end, Africa considers it crucial that the core budget make appropriate provision for implementation support – including by ensuring that the AEWA Secretariat is adequately capacitated to support implementation efforts of the Contracting Parties.

Recognizing the importance of the Secretariat in focusing on priorities and raising funds, and on actively supporting efforts to mobilize financial resources in support of the successful implementation of the Agreement, Africa is of the view that the Secretariat should be actively involved in fundraising activities, with dedicated staff within the Secretariat to perform this function. We therefore:

- Request the Executive Secretary to prioritize fundraising activities to mobilize funding to enable especially the developing country Parties, the majority of which are from Africa, to implement the Agreement at the national level, and to identify potential partnerships that will contribute to the implementation of the Agreement at the national level, and to make this information available to Parties, including the amount of funds that were raised and the mechanisms for accessing such funding;
- Further request the Executive Secretary to strengthen synergies with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements such as the CBD, Ramsar Convention and UNFCCC with a view to enhance sharing of technical and financial resources to implement the Agreement, thereby avoiding duplication of effort and increasing visibility and recognition of the Agreement;
- Encourage developed Contracting Parties and other Parties in a position to do so, and invite other governments, financial institutions and other partners to increase their contributions to financing the implementation of the activities of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 at the national level by developing countries, including by building capacity to enhance implementation.

Contracting Parties from the African region encourage Parties to consider incorporating their AEWA priority activities into their revised/updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans as part of the process to facilitate obtaining financial support through available global financing mechanisms.

The Contracting Parties from the African region are committed to enhanced implementation of the AEWA Agreement and look forward to the leadership of the Government of Hungary and active participation of the delegations present for a very successful 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties.”

29. **Ukraine** made the following statement:

“Thank you for giving me an opportunity to address you at this Meeting of the Parties to AEWA. Today there is ongoing full-scale unprovoked and unjustified war launched by Russia against Ukraine. As it has been repeatedly stated, Russia’s ongoing attack on Ukraine is also an attack on the environment. As a result of the foreign invasion, our natural heritage is being progressively damaged. Russia continues destroying natural habitats – the source of biodiversity despite its membership in the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity related international treaties. It will take many years to restore them, including for rare and endangered species.

As of today, more than half of the Ramsar sites in Ukraine have been affected by the hostilities committed by the Russian armed force, including the sites located at the coasts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov as well as lower parts of the Dnipro and Danube rivers. More than 20 nature and biosphere reserves and national parks have suffered losses due to the Russian aggression. Ramsar sites are well known places that supports quite a number of waterbird species.

As per estimations, territory of about 900 protected area objects with an area of more than 1 million hectares has been affected due to war, including 200 Emerald Network sites with an area of 2.9 million hectares, many of which provide important habitats for waterbirds. This ongoing war on the European Continent poses an existential threat to the world and brings unprecedented and long-lasting challenges to the environment and human habitat.

In accordance with the UN GA Resolution "Aggression against Ukraine" adopted by the UN member-states, our delegation calls for the continuation of our joint efforts with a view to putting an end to this aggression so that the whole world could feel safer, and that wildlife and waterbirds could be better preserved for us and for future generations.

Despite the war, Ukraine continues to be committed to implement AEWA and other biodiversity related international treaties.”

30. The **Chair** noted that requests to make short statements had been received from two observer non-Party Range States, Cameroon (which had recently acceded to AEWA, so that the Agreement would be entering into force on 1 October 2022, immediately after the closure of MOP8) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

31. **His Excellency Mr Jules Doret Ndongo, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon (Cameroon)** expressed his sincere gratitude for admitting Cameroon as a Contracting Party of AEWA. The process of accession was the result of hard work by many actors. Cameroon had a large network of protected areas, and 64 sites where waterbirds were monitored; birds were an excellent indicator for the health of the environment and also an important resource for tourism in Cameroon. AEWA offered Cameroon an opportunity to improve the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the country.

32. **Mohammed Shobrak, representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** updated the MOP concerning the Kingdom’s forthcoming accession to AEWA. The Wildlife Authority in Saudi Arabia already worked closely with the AEWA Secretariat on the conservation of AEWA species, and

approval of the Agreement was already in place for imminent accession. Hunting legislation was implemented to a high standard, with a unique hunting bag system. Legislation had resulted in a no hunting zone along the entire coastline, extending to 20 km inland. Saudi Arabia had an extensive and expanding network of protected areas, including Marine Protected Areas, and aimed to mitigate threats to AEWA species, including through minimising the impact of power lines.

Agenda item 9. Reports

a. Standing Committee

33. The **Chair of the Standing Committee, United Kingdom**, represented by Mr Simon Mackown, presented Document AEWA/MOP 8.6 *Report of the Standing Committee*.

34. The **MOP** took note of the report; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

b. Technical Committee

35. The **Chair of the Technical Committee**, Dr Ruth Cromie, presented Document UNEP/AEWA/MOP 8.7 *Report of the Technical Committee* which outlined the Committee's activities in the triennium since MOP 7.

36. The **MOP** took note of the report; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

37. The **Chair** thanked Dr Cromie, as the outgoing Chair of TC, for her effective and fruitful work.

c. Depositary

38. **The Netherlands**, represented by the AEWA Focal Point, Mr Nick Warmelink, introduced Document UNEP/AEWA/MOP 8.8 *Report of the Depositary*.

39. The **MOP** took note of the report; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

d. Secretariat

40. The **Executive Secretary** (Dr Jacques Trouvilliez) presented Document AEWA/MOP 8.9 *Report of the Secretariat*.

41. The **MOP** took note of the report; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

e. UNEP

42. **The Chair** referred participants to Document AEWA/MOP 8.10 *Report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to the 8th Session of the Meeting of Parties* and informed the meeting that this report would not be presented orally.

43. The **MOP** took note of the written report; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

Agenda item 10. Report on the Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019 – 2027

44. On behalf of the **Standing Committee**, the **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit) presented Document AEWA/MOP 8.11 *Progress of Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027*.

45. The **Czech Republic, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States take note of the report and support the adoption of the relevant parts of the resolution. Considering the important implementation gap and limited progress in achieving the targets of the Strategic Plan, the EU and its Member States strongly support the recommendations on advancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan, contained in the *Progress report on the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 (Doc. AEWA/MOP8.11)*).

The EU and its Member States support the adoption of the relevant part of the Draft Resolution and propose to include a reference to the conclusions and recommendations of Document AEWA/MOP 8.11 in the relevant part of the Resolution 8.3.”

46. There being no further comments or questions from the floor, the **MOP** took note of the document and presentation.

Agenda item 11. Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019 – 2027

47. The **Secretariat** (Ms Evelyn Moloko, Coordinator for the African Initiative) presented an update *on implementation of the AEWA African Initiative and AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027*.

48. **Ms Clémence Deschamps, Project Leader, Technical Support Unit (TSU) of the AEWA African Initiative** presented complementary information on the work of the TSU, which is based at Tour du Valat, France, and supported by the Ministry of Ecological Transition, France.

49. The **MOP** took note of the document and presentations; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

Agenda item 12. Analysis and Synthesis of National Reports

50. **Ms Aude Caromel, Programme Officer, Species Programme, UNEP-WCMC**, presented Document AEWA/MOP 8.13 *Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2018-2020*.

51. It was noted by the **Chair** that Document AEWA/MOP 8.14 *Draft Format for National Reports on the Implementation of AEWA 2021-2024* would be considered by the Scientific and Technical Working Group.

52. The **MOP** took note of the analysis; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

Agenda item 13. Analysis and Synthesis of the reports on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA)

53. **Ms. Ciara Safford, Programme Officer, Species Programme, UNEP-WCMC**, presented Document AEWA/MOP 8.15 *Analysis of the National Reports on the Implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for African for the Period 2019-2020*.

54. It was noted by the **Chair** that Document AEWA/MOP 8.16 *Draft Format for National Reporting Module on the Implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2021-2024* would be considered by the Scientific and Technical Working Group.

55. The **MOP** took note of the analysis; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

Agenda item 14. Report on Communications

56. **Mr Aydin Bahramlouian, Coordinator, Joint CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising (IMCA) Unit**, presented Document AEWA/MOP 8.18 *Report on the Joint CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising Unit*.

57. **Mr Florian Keil, Information Officer, IMCA Unit**, presented Document AEWA/MOP 8.17 *Report on the Implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy*.

58. The **MOP** took note of both documents and presentations; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

Agenda item 15. Conservation Status Report, 8th edition (CSR8)

59. **Dr Szabolcs Nagy, Wetlands International, lead compiler of the 8th Edition of the Conservation Status Report (CSR8)** presented Document AEWA/MOP 8.19 *Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area - 8th Edition*.

60. **Dr Nagy** closed by drawing the attention of the meeting to the attractively presented summary of CSR8 that had been included in the MOP8 delegate registration pack.

61. The **Chair** invited comments or questions from the floor.

62. **Mauritius** noted that CSR8 highlighted implementation gaps in East Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands and wished to record its thanks to the Secretariat for supporting the organisation of a capacity building workshop to be held in the region in February 2023. This would enable the ‘training of trainers’ on the topic of flyway conservation, focusing on Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles, and hosted by the Government of Mauritius. It was anticipated that the workshop would significantly enhance capacity of the technical network for AEWA implementation across the Indian Ocean islands.

63. The **MOP** took note of the document and presentation.

Agenda item 16. Implementation Review Process (IRP)

64. The **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit) presented Document AEWA/MOP 8.20 *Report on the Implementation Review Process to the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties*.

65. In addition to the information presented in the document, **Mr Dereliev** noted that the AEWA Secretariat had recently undertaken a joint on-the-spot appraisal mission to Albania, together with the Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats. Two other case files for which missions were being planned included those for Kenya and Tunisia. The Government of Portugal had declined to engage with the StC with regard to the case file on the airport development in the Tagus Estuary. He highlighted the very limited capacity of the Secretariat to support the StC sufficiently with regard to the IRP, but noted that one of the budget scenarios for the forthcoming triennium included provision for a Compliance Officer position that would fill this capacity gap.

66. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments and questions.

67. **Germany** underlined that it had drawn to the attention of the Secretariat, more than a year previously, that Germany took the case file relating to Bewick's Swan very seriously and had already invested some EUR 1.8 million in a corresponding project, with the close involvement of NABU, one of the most important German NGOs for bird and nature conservation. This would ensure an independent contribution to the further assessment of the case. Further information was available via the following website:

<https://biologischevielfalt.bfn.de/bundesprogramm/projekte/projektbeschreibungen/zwergschwan.html>

68. **France** thanked the Secretariat for the efforts made for the translation of documents. Nevertheless, contrary to the Rules of Procedure, one-third of documents had unfortunately not yet been translated into French. In the view of France this was prejudicial to the work of the MOP. France also wished to provide information on the IRP case file relating to a proposed windfarm in Arjuzanx. There was no longer an active proposal of this nature. Furthermore, France was pleased to inform Parties of the establishment of the réserve nationale d'Arjuzanx, which would enable strengthened protection of the site, especially with regard to the wintering population of Common Crane.

69. With regard to translation, the **Executive Secretary** noted that for more than ten years AEWA had experienced a zero-growth budget evolution. This had required reductions in a number of items of expenditure, including translation services. Additional support for MOP8 had enabled the Secretariat to translate as much as possible, but did not cover the costs of translating all documents, as required under the Rules of Procedure. He offered to work alongside the Government of France with the aim of securing the funding required for this situation to improve.

70. The **MOP** took note of the document and presentation.

Agenda item 28. Institutional Arrangements

a. Standing Committee

71. The **Executive Secretary** briefly introduced Draft Resolution 8.10 *Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee* including the current composition of the StC and recalled that nominations for membership of the StC during the 2023–2025 triennium would be requested during the plenary discussion of Draft Resolution 8.10 on 30 September, and that the respective sub-regions should consult on their representatives for the next triennium.

72. The **Chair** noted that detailed discussion of this item should take place in the Scientific and Technical Working Group but that the floor was open for general comments. In the absence of any such comments, the information provided by the Executive Secretary was noted.

Agenda item 29. Financial and Administrative Matters

a. Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues in 2019-2022 (Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.38 Rev.1)

73. The **Executive Secretary** presented Document AEWA/MOP 8.38 Rev.1 *Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues in 2019-2022*. He concluded by thanking the eight Parties and one NGO that had contributed additional voluntary contributions for general activities, specifically Croatia, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the Hellenic Ornithological Society.

b. Draft budget proposal and Secretariat's Programme of Work for the 2023-2025 triennium

74. The **Executive Secretary** presented Document AEWA/MOP 8.39 Corr.1 *Draft Budget Proposal and Secretariat's Programme of Work for the 2023-2025 Triennium*. He summarised each of the four potential budget scenarios contained in the document. In brief, these could be characterised as:

- Scenario 1 – zero nominal growth
- Scenario 2 – zero real growth
- Scenario 3 – applying the UN rules and securing the African Officer position
- Scenario 4 – providing the Secretariat with the resources required to fulfil its mandate

75. The **Executive Secretary** further noted that the document set out the method of calculation of Parties' contributions and showed exactly what these would be under each scenario. In addition, the document linked the budget clearly with the draft Programme of Work of the Secretariat for 2023–2025.

76. There being no questions or comments from the floor, the **MOP** took note of the document and presentation.

77. The **Chair** confirmed that the plenary would adjourn until the morning of Friday 30 September. Following a break, the two established sessional committees – the Finance & Administration Working Group and the Scientific & Technical Working Group – would convene for their first sessions from 16:30 to 18:00. The Working Groups would continue their business on Wednesday 28 September during the entire day, concluding by 18:00, or deciding to continue to work without interpretation beyond that time.