

## RESOLUTION 1.3

### ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRIENNIAL NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT FOR THE AFRICAN- EURASIAN WATERBIRD AGREEMENT

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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,*

*Aware* that implementation of the Agreement and Action Plan will be enhanced by regular review of national implementation,

*Desiring* that AEWA adopts forms of national reporting which are not unnecessarily complex and do not duplicate the data and information gathering already undertaken by other Conventions and related international programmes,

*Noting* that the preparation of national reports can be greatly assisted with the involvement of appropriate expertise,

*Further noting* that Article V paragraph 1 (c) of the Agreement calls on the Meeting of the Parties at its first session to determine the format of reports,

1. *Adopts* the attached format of national reports and notes the attached guidance <sup>1</sup> which outlines the rationale for this adopted format;
2. *Stresses* the need to review regularly the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Meetings of the Parties within national reports;
3. *Encourages* all Contracting Parties to prepare a preliminary national report outlining current actions to implement the Agreement to be submitted by 1 September 2000 for consideration to the Technical Committee at its first meeting, to be held in 2000;
4. *Recommends* that Contracting Parties consult, if appropriate, with relevant non-governmental organizations and others with technical expertise in the preparation of national reports and implementation plans;
5. *Instructs* the Technical Committee and Agreement Secretariat to liaise actively with related international conventions, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and other international organizations concerning all aspects of the implementation of the Agreement, especially the harmonization of data and information collection and management, so as to encourage the development of synergies;
6. *Urges* all Contracting Parties to prepare national reports and submit them to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session in accordance with the timetable outlined in Article V, paragraph (c), of the Agreement;
7. *Requests* the Meeting of the Parties, at its second session, to review the national reporting format in the light of experience and, if necessary, recommend changes that may be desirable.

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<sup>1</sup> Annex and AEWA/MOP.1.14

## **Annex**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRIENNIAL NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT**

#### **Background**

In support to the interim Secretariat of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has helped develop a format for national reports based on the AEWA Action Plan. A draft reporting format and supporting guidance is presented to the Meeting of the Parties at its first session for discussion, modification and adoption. The draft reporting format has been developed for countries to prepare national reports to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session. The format is designed to complement existing triennial reporting commitments to other conventions and streamline reporting by recognizing common information requirements.

The draft reporting format includes three sections:

- (a) Overview of Action Plan implementation;
- (b) Structured questions related to each of the Action Plan headings; and
- (c) Series of appendices, e.g., list of sites of international importance for waterbird conservation.

It is structured in such a way as to urge countries to describe their progress to implement the Action Plan and identify a programme of targets that set out future priorities for migratory waterbird conservation.

#### **Preparation of national reports as working examples for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties**

Two Contracting Parties have agreed to test the draft reporting format and prepare national reports in one of the official languages of the Agreement (English or French) prior to the first Meeting of the Parties. Switzerland and Togo have prepared national reports for the Meeting. The practical experience gained through testing the draft reporting format should inform discussions at the Meeting of the Parties, aid the development and adoption of a national report format and supporting guidance.

#### **Subsequent activities**

After the first session of the Meeting of the Parties, Parties are urged to prepare a preliminary report for consideration by the Technical Committee at its first meeting. This would provide an insight into the current policies, practices and activities that each Contracting Party is undertaking to support waterbird conservation and implement AEWA.