

FINAL MINUTES OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE AEWA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

30 March – 2 April 2004, North Berwick, Scotland

1. Opening

1. Yousoof Mungroo (Chairman) opened the meeting, welcoming all participants and thanking the Government of the United Kingdom for hosting this meeting.

2. Welcome addresses

2. Hilary Neal (DEFRA), representing the host Government, welcomed the participants stating the great honour to host an official meeting of an Agreement of the United Nations.

3. Bert Lenten (Executive Secretary) thanked the Government of the United Kingdom for hosting this meeting and the excellent support given in this respect.

4. Bert Lenten mentioned the name of TC member who could not attend and had sent apologies, being Mariano Giminez-Dixon (IUCN). In addition apologies had been received from FACE.

3. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure (doc. AEWA/ TC 5.3)

5. Bert Lenten pointed out that at the last TC meeting Olivier Biber had proposed to amend Rule 1 by including the following words: *The Technical Committee established in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement provides, in coordination with the Standing Committee, scientific and technical advice and information to the Meeting of the Parties, and through the Agreement Secretariat to the Parties.* At that time it was decided to wait for the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee to ensure that the Rules of Procedure of the TC would be in line with the ones for the Standing Committee (StC) meetings.

6. Some discussion took place as to whom the TC gives advice. Bert Lenten clarified that according to revised Rule 1 the TC gives scientific and technical advice and information, to the Meeting of the Parties and/ or the StC, through the Agreement Secretariat to the Parties. It was agreed that special attention should be given in this respect to the coordination between the different subsidiary bodies of the Agreement.

7. Bert Lenten promised to table the amended Rules of Procedure of the TC at the next StC meeting.

8. After this discussion the TC adopted the Rules of Procedure (doc. AEWA/ TC 5.3).

Action:	To submit the revised Rules of Procedure of the TC by the Secretariat to the next StC meeting.
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4. Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme

9. The Chairman presented the Provisional Work Programme (doc. AEWA/ TC 5.4) and asked for comments.

10. Bert Lenten proposed to delete and postpone item 10 to the next meeting. Furthermore he proposed that due to the fact that three participants have to attend the CMS Scientific Council meeting in Glasgow at the same time to discuss item number 19 and 20 on Wednesday.

11. Rachelle Adam proposed to discuss the National Report on Friday morning.

12. After the Meeting agreed upon the amendments proposed the Agenda and Work programme were adopted.

5. Admission of Observers

13. Bert Lenten welcomed Petri Nummi (Finland), Oscar Merne (Ireland), Charles Mdoe (Tanzania/ Chairman of the StC), Hilary Neil (UK), David Stroud (UK), Andrew Williams (UK), Adam Kidson (UK), Christoph Zöckler (UNEP/ WCMC), Guy-Noël Olivier (O.M.P.O.), Gilles Deplanques (Chairman of the Sustainable Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group of Wetlands International) and John O'Sullivan (BirdLife International).

14. Their participation at this meeting as observers was accepted by the Meeting.

15. A discussion took place on the representation of the StC at the meetings of the TC. Olivier Biber proposed to include in the Rules of Procedure that the Chair of the StC would be invited to participate as an observer for all TC meetings. The Meeting agreed to that.

Action:	<i>Secretariat to amend the Rules of Procedure by inclusion of a Rule which says that the Chair of the StC will be invited to attend the TC meetings as observer.</i>
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6. Adoption of the Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee

(doc. AEWA/ TC 5.2)

16. The Chairman asked the delegates to review the minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the TC (doc. AEWA/ TC 5.5) by going through the document page by page.

17. Olivier Biber requested to change the word *poverty elevation* into *poverty alleviation* in para. 73. Furthermore he requested to change the wording in para. 88 from “*support from ONCFS*” to “*support for ONCFS*”.

18. John O' Sullivan requested to change the word *Pastorella* in *Pasteurella*. In addition he pointed out that some work done by the Dutch Government supported by Vogelbescherming (Dutch BirdLife Partner) indicated that the prime source of mortality of *Somateria mollissima* in the Wadden Sea is over-fishing of shellfish, which causes starvation and serious reduction of the species in the Wadden Sea.

19. Christoph Zöckler asked to change in para. 151 *Anas Crecca* to *Anas crecca*.

20. Bert Lenten mentioned that in the heading number 19 between para. 208 and para. 209 the word “*...hosting by Wetlands International*” should be changed into “*....organised by Wetlands International*”. He further mentioned that the numbering of paragraph has to be changed.

21. Regarding *rapid support for monitoring in Iraq para. 206*, Olivier Biber raised the question what has been undertaken in this issue?

22. Bert Lenten replied that Dirk Hendricks looked into this issue and his findings were that a lot of things could be done. However after the bombing in Baghdad safety restrictions of the UN do not allow sending any experts into the field.

23. Christoph Zöckler proposed to contact the post conflict unit of UNEP in Geneva as it would be advisable and useful to liaise with other organisations that support developing projects in conflict areas.

24. Elena Kreuzberg mentioned according to para. 213” *Elena Kreuzberg held a presentation on capacity building in the region related to CMS and AEWA*” should be changed to “*Elena Kreuzberg held a presentation on local capacity building in the Area of biodiversity conservation in the region related to CMS and AEWA*”.

25. Ward Hagemeyer asked for an additional column in the list of the Action Points attached to these minutes to clarify the status of implementation of the action points.

26. Taking into account the comments made the Meeting adopted the Minutes of TC4.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>Minutes of TC4 to be amended by the Secretariat.</i>
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7. Report of the Chairman

27. The Chairman reported that there had been regular contacts between him and the Secretariat through E-mail seeking views on several issues e.g. financial and administrative matters including projects.

28. As Chairman of the TC he was invited by the Executive Secretary of CMS to participate at the Scientific Council, which clashes with this TC5. CMS was informed about this and in close cooperation with the Secretariat it was decided to request Ward Hagemeyer, Olivier Biber and John O’ Sullivan, who will partly attend the CMS meeting to represent the TC.

29. The Meeting agreed to give the three representatives mentioned above the mandate to represent the TC.

30. The point was raised that members of the TC responded to request of the Secretariat to give their view regarding certain projects. So far no feedback has been received from the Secretariat as to how the comments received have led to which decision. A more transparent process would be appreciated.

31. Ward Hagemeyer suggested, as discussed already bilaterally with the Secretariat, to do this through a web-hosted discussion forum instead of by E-mail.

32. Bert Lenten agreed that the process should be more transparent and promised to work on this.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>Development by the Secretariat of a more transparent process regarding comments from TC and the feedback of the Secretariat on these comments.</i>
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8. Report of the Secretary (doc. AEWA/ TC 5.6)

33. Bert Lenten introduced the report and highlighted only the most important matters namely:

- Future premises in 2005/2006
- Meanwhile the CMS and the Agreements are growing rapidly and AEWA Secretariat will move to another building together with the ASCOBANS and EUROBATS Secretariats not far away from the present building
- Recruitment of the Personal Assistant and Associated Technical Officer is in progress.
- Also the post of Executive Secretary has been advertised. Currently some discussion is going on if the Contracting Parties should be involved in the recruitment process.
- A successful first Standing Committee took place in November 2003 in Bonn.
- Action Plans are under preparation for the Northern Bald Ibis and the Light-bellied Brent Goose East Canadian High Arctic population.

- A new exhibition on AEWA was developed based on the layout designed for the common exhibition. This means that this exhibition could be combined with the common exhibition.
- At the Global Flyway Conference the first DVD on AEWA will be launched.
- First Joint Work programme between Ramsar Secretariat-CMS and AEWA is ready and will be signed at the Global Flyway Conference.
- The GEF council has approved the full-size African-Eurasian Flyway Project.

34. Referring to page 5 Ward Hagemeyer asked which steps has been undertaken to promote the Agreement in the Russian Federation.

35. In response to this question Bert Lenten informed the Meeting that he recently visited the Russian Embassy in Berlin to discuss the possibility to organise an awareness-raising workshop on AEWA for high-level authorities. The Embassy would be in principal willing to help to organise such a workshop.

9. Implementation of the International Implementation Priorities (IIP) 2003-2007 (Doc: AEWA/TC 5.13)

36. Bert Lenten introduced his report on the performance of the IIP 2000-2004 and IIP 2003-2007 and highlighted some projects.

37. During the upcoming Global Flyway Conference a mini symposium will be organised where the outcome of the Study on potential impacts of marine fisheries on migratory birds and the exchange of know-how on traditional approaches to wetland and waterbird management in Africa will be presented.

38. With regards to the Guideline on National Legislation the Meeting was informed that the Secretariat contracted Ina von Frantzius to finalise this guideline. She will start her work on 1st of April 2004 and will liaise with Rachele Adam and IUCN-ELC.

39. Currently consultation with Aviculture organisation on the Brochure 'Avoidance of Introduction of Non-native Migratory Waterbirds Species' takes place. Comments received on both the Brochure and Guideline will be passed on to the TC. The Secretariat will make a proposal how to deal with the comments received.

40. An Action Plan for the Northern Bald Ibis is being developed under the framework of AEWA. The TC will receive the draft Action Plan later this year for comments.

41. Ward Hagemeyer made a strong plea for implementation of existing Action Plans as also indicated in the IIP 2003-2007.

42. Bert Lenten agreed with this but pointed out that no funds are available in the AEWA Budget for this. He tried to stimulate Parties to implement/ support implementation of these Action Plans. It was agreed that at the next TC a discussion will take place on how to stimulate the implementation of Action Plans.

43. As an example of support for implementation of Action Plans Bert Lenten informed the Meeting that a grant has been received from the UK for the development of density-dependent population model for the Dark-bellied Brent Goose. The idea is to build on a model that is currently developed under the 5th Framework of the EU, DG Research for other species. This means that activities will not start before end of the project under the 5th Framework being somewhere early 2005.

44. Preparations are made for holding an AEWA workshop on Sustainable hunting in western Africa. This workshop will be organised in close cooperation with ONCFS, Wetlands International, CIC and OMPO. The workshop is scheduled to take in November 2004 in Senegal.

45. A discussion took place on the usefulness of updating the Report on the use on non-toxic shot every three years. David Stroud strongly supported this frequency and stressed that by doing so the problem of lead shot remains under the attention of the Range States. The problem is however that no sufficient funds are available to enable Wetlands International to draft the update. Bert Lenten said that he would prefer to put more efforts in phasing out lead shot instead of producing an update of the previous report.

46. Ward Hagemeyer informed the Meeting that based on the outcomes of a workshop the EU has given priority to developing Flyway Atlases for Gulls, Terns, Herons, Ibises, Storks and Rallidae. The Secretariat could use this to discuss with the EU potential funding for drafting of these Atlases.

47. The EU has informed the Secretariat that it is in the process to join the Agreement soon. They also indicated that they might support the implementation of the Agreement. For this a list of project proposal should be drafted. The Secretariat proposed to establish a small working group for drafting such a list. Elena Kreuzberg, Preben Clausen, Ward Hagemeyer and the Secretariat volunteered to participate in this working group.

48. With reference to the project on the development of the Agreement's Website Ward Hagemeyer made a plea to develop as part of the website a discussion forum for the TC and/ or working groups. The Secretariat supported this idea and informed the Meeting that the whole website will be re-designed to create a better portal to the information available at the website.

49. Olivier Biber proposed to include a list of all IIP projects on the AEWA website with a short summary of what has been achieved so far within these projects. This information can than also be used for new projects, building on old projects.

50. Regarding the project 'Coordination of waterbird ringing schemes particular in Africa' David Stroud requested if a progress report is available. Bert Lenten said that this was not the case but that he will try to get a progress report and will distribute it to the TC members.

51. Christoph Zöckler stressed that project 26: Population trends and project 27: Causes of population changes of waterbirds are highly topical issues at the moment e.g. in the light of the implementation of the 2010 target to reduce the loss of biodiversity. Also the issue of waterbirds as indicators is of interest to AEWA. He proposed that the Secretariat would liaise with CBD, Ramsar and CMS and to contribute to these issues. The Secretariat agreed with this proposal and will liaise as requested with the MEAs mentioned before.

<i>Action:</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Comments received on the Brochure/ Guideline on 'Avoidance of introduction of Non-native Species' will be submitted to TC members.</i> 2) <i>The Secretariat will approach the EU to discuss potential funding for Flyway Atlases.</i> 3) <i>When re-designing website a discussion forum and list of all AEWA projects will be added.</i> 4) <i>The issue of how to stimulate implementation of Action Plan will be added to the agenda of the next TC meeting.</i> 5) <i>The Secretariat will request a progress report on the project on ringing schemes and will submit this to the TC members.</i> 6) <i>The Secretariat will liaise with CBD, Ramsar and CMS to be more involved in 2010 target and waterbirds as indicators discussion.</i> 7) <i>Development of list of project proposals by the working group to be submitted to the EU for funding.</i>
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10. Criteria and guidelines on acceptance of project proposals to be funded by AEWA (doc. AEWA/ TC 5.7)

52. Bert Lenten informed the Meeting that more work has to be done on developing criteria and guidelines for acceptance of project proposals that could be funded by AEWA. He promised to come with a proposal at the next TC meeting.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>Proposal for criteria and guidelines on acceptance of project proposals to be funded by AEWA to be drafted by the Secretariat and to be submitted to TC6.</i>
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11. PROPOSAL ON HOW TO REPORT ON STATUS AND TRENDS OF POPULATIONS FOR MOP3 (doc. AEWA/ TC 5.8)

53. David Stroud introduced document AEWA/ TC 5.8 briefly. He was very grateful for the input he received from WCMC and Wetland International to produce this paper.

54. The current status report has no explicit objectives. For the new status report the working group suggest 6 objectives as laid down on page 3 of the document. The Meeting agreed with these objectives, which forms the basis for determining the content of the status report.

55. Oscar Merne stressed that reporting obligations under different Conventions require the availability of the necessary resource. Probably some countries lack these resources, which would explain the limited number of National Reports, received for MOP2. In his view there would be a lot of scope for harmonisation of reporting to different treaties.

56. Christoph Zöckler informed the Meeting that WCMC developed an information management system for CMS. This is a web-based synthesis of National reporting where all information could be analysed by the web user in a way that the requested information is generated. This system could be easily adapted for AEWA. The second point he mentioned is the need to increase incentives to submit reports. When countries see that their reports are used for overall analysis this would certainly encourage them to send in their reports.

57. Preben Clausen proposed to use the Waterbird Populations Estimates and to add a column for those populations covered by AEWA stating the conservation status of these species. On top of that we need a summary of changes that will be submitted to MOP including the WPE4.

58. Ward Hagemeijer was in favour of including the conservation status of AEWA species in the global report. His main concern was that we might end up with several sub sets in the global report. In his view it would not be difficult to use the existing global data set and to target it to the AEWA region.

59. The Chairman proposed to go through the document page by page.

60. Page 3 para 2: it was agreed not to limit the status report to species listed in the Action Plan but to address all waterbirds.

61. Page 6 'types of analysis': all participant were requested by David Stroud to feed in ideas on specific analysis, which could be included later in the document.

62. Page 7 'target setting': on the question how targets could be set David Stroud responded that it will be possibly up to the TC to recommend to the MOP that targets be set by which the efficacy of Agreement could be judged. This would necessarily be related to date that the Agreement came into force. The idea is not to set detailed targets but rather more general targets more or less of the types of analysis that we are reporting here e.g. reduction of the number of IUCN globally threatened species.

63. Christoph Zöckler said that target setting could be also more specifically related to our Action Plan and particularly to the species for which and International Species Action Plan was concluded.

64. Page 8 'National reporting': Bert Lenten stressed that the format for National Report has been developed by the UK and that this is based on format for National Report to Ramsar Convention. Furthermore he pointed out that the target group for National reporting is the MOP.

65. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to make contact with the Ramsar Bureau to discuss how they managed to get over 90 % of Contracting Parties to submit their National Report.

66. Bert Lenten furthermore informed the Meeting that in due course Contracting Parties will be approached to inform them that the next MOP will take place end of 2005 and to urge them to start with the preparation of the National Report as soon as possible.

67. Page 8 'next steps': regarding point 3 (page 9) it was decided to enlarge the working group, which will prepare a new draft of the document. Members of this working group are: David Stroud, Ward Hagemeyer, Christoph Zöckler, John O'Sullivan and Preben Clausen.

68. The Meeting adopted the time table as given on page 9 and it was decided to submit the final draft to the 2nd Meeting of the Standing Committee.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>1) The working group to prepare a new draft of the document on how to report on status and trends..</i> <i>2) Secretariat to remind Contracting Parties as soon as possible that they have to submit in 2005 their National Report to MOP3.</i> <i>3) Secretariat to make contact with Ramsar Bureau to find out why they have a good response regarding submission of National Reports.</i>
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12. Review of further development of the Agreement by inclusion of additional species of wetland birds and seabirds (doc. AEWA/ TC 5.9)

69. Bert Lenten introduced the document and pointed out that from the identification of threats to species, which could be proposed for inclusion in the Agreement, it turned out that not all threats for the current species listed in the Agreement are covered by the AEWA Action Plan. For example climate change has not been addressed as yet in the Action Plan. There might be a need to propose some amendments to the current Action Plan to be submitted to MOP3.

70. Ward Hagemeyer mentioned that many of the threats listed have been addressed in the Conservation Guidelines. The question is if the Action Plan has to be updated.

71. Several members commented that the word 'hunting' would be replaced by 'inappropriate harvesting'.

72. Olivier Biber asked if we should try to get a definite list or if it would be still open to add more species in the future.

73. The Secretariat recalled Resolution 2.1. para 6 where it was mentioned that the TC should review further development of the Agreement by including additional species of wetlands and seabirds. This list is not definite and it is still open to include more species in the Agreement in the future.

74. Christoph Zöckler expressed his general concern to include some seabirds. By including these species we move away from the 'real waterbirds' for which AEWA was developed. In his view we should be clear about the consequences of including more species.

75. Also Herby Kalchreuter and Guy-Noël Olivier pointed out their concerns to include passerine species, which might weaken the Agreement as a whole.
76. Guy-Noël Olivier added that he was in favour of including seabird species to avoid that a new Agreement will be developed for this group of species.
77. Bert Lenten responded to the concerns of Christoph Zöckler. Firstly he pointed out that some seabird species are already included in AEWA. Secondly countries are not in favour of establishing new Agreements in case species could be included in e.g. AEWA. Also the geographical scope of the Agreement covers large parts of e.g. the Atlantic Ocean.
78. Preben Clausen proposed to consider the flyways of seabirds. He would be in favour of including only species that occur constantly in the AEWA area. Regarding including passerine he was not in favour because little is known of the status of these species. In his view to a great extent those species will benefit if we managed wetlands properly to support Ducks, Geese, Swans and other non passerine waterbirds. In case a few species of passerines would need special attention listing could be considered, e.g. Aquatic Warbler.
79. Elena Kreuzberg supported the view of Preben Clausen regarding inclusion of passerines. She sees lack of knowledge and scientific interest in these species as the main bottleneck to take appropriate conservation actions.
80. Olivier Biber suggested proposing to the MOP3 to enlarge the list of species to include seabird and wetland species if appropriate in the scope of the Agreement and if not covered by any other Agreements and MOUs. This would leave all possibilities open for increasing the list including some passerines, but not necessarily and automatically all wetland or seabird species.
81. Christoph Zöckler and David Stroud supported the proposal of Olivier Biber.
82. Bert Lenten expressed that he was not in favour of the proposal of Olivier Biber, because this was more or less already decided by MOP2. Also the idea to focus only on species that are vulnerable was not supported by him.
83. John O' Sullivan suggested to come up with a pragmatic decision because in his view there is no way you can do it logically. We should draw a clear line and stick to it. As said before many of the seabirds spend their lives well outside the Agreement area. Possibly a few seabirds could be added to those already included in the Agreement. Also he was not in favour of including birds of prey for which probably a separate CMS Agreement will be drafted in the near future.
84. It is unclear if the list was adopted by MOP2; probably they only have taken note of it.
85. After a long discussion it was concluded that a working group should review the species list to select birds that qualify for inclusion and also review the threat list. A working group was established consisting of: Preben Clausen, Olivier Biber, Ward Hagemeijer, Christoph Zöckler, Rachelle Adam, Sherif Baha El Din, Valentin Serebryakov, John O'Sullivan, Guy-Noël Olivier, Gilles Deplanque and Bert Lenten

<i>Action:</i>	<i>The working group to review the list of species that is proposed for inclusion (including the threats). and submit a revised proposal to TC6.</i>
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13. Discussion paper on long-term decline of population (doc. AEWA/ TC 5.10)

86. Preben Clausen introduced briefly the document he drafted together with David Stroud.

87. During the following discussion it was stated that for many species assessing long-term decline of populations is very difficult and that much more work has to be done on this. Difficulties in assessing long-term decline are due to differences in fluctuation of numbers between populations as well as the age structure and longevity of populations, as well as due to lack of knowledge of population vital rates. Data quantity and quality were also mentioned as a limiting factor in many AEWA range states.

88. It was recommended to involve hunting and wildlife organisations, as they collect data on population sizes in order to assess hunting quotas and to contact North American authorities to see how they deal with this problem.

89. It was decided that the enlarged working group existing of Elena Kreuzberg, Guy-Noël Olivier, Ward Hagemeijer, Preben Clausen and David Stroud would elaborate the current paper further and come up with a next draft by end of 2004, which then will be submitted to the TC.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>The working group to further elaborate the paper on long-term decline of populations, which will be submitted to TC by end of 2004.</i>
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14. Future Role of the Technical Committee (doc. AEWA/ TC 5.11)

90. Rachele Adam gave a short introduction on doc. 5.11. She emphasised that the basis of the work of the TC is the Agreement text; article 7 para.3, which defines what the TC is supposed to do. The main question is how does the TC see its future role? Bodies in other Conventions/ Agreements play a more pro-active role in e.g. setting the agenda for COPs/ MOPs.

91. David Stroud added that the working group on this document tried not only to list the activities but also to give an indication of the status of work. This could be used as a first basis for a rolling work programme that can change from meeting to meeting.

92. It was decided that the Secretariat takes over the task of keeping the work programme up-to-date.

93. Some discussion took place on the relationship between the TC and the StC. Although there was no legal obligation to do so it was decided that the StC should be informed about the work of the TC.

94. The Meeting agreed that the TC takes a more proactive role.

95. The Chairman requested attention of the Meeting for the issue of National Reports.

96. The question was raised if TC6 has the possibility to review the National Reports for MOP3.

97. Bert Lenten responded to this that TC6 is scheduled to take place in May 2005. Taking into account that National Reports have to be submitted at least 120 days before opening of MOP3, which is scheduled to take place in December 2005, National Reports will probably not be available for TC6.

98. Christoph Zöckler informed the Meeting that for CMS an Information Management System has been developed by UNEP-WCMC. This web-based system provides the possibility to synthesis National Report. In his view it would not be difficult to include AEWA in this system.

99. There was some confusion on the status of format of the National Report. Bert Lenten stressed that this format has been adopted by MOP1 and that it cannot be changed until MOP3.

100. The Meeting established a working group consisting of Preben Clausen, Christoph Zöckler, Elena Kreuzberg, Charles Mlingwa and the Secretariat to look at enhancement of the current format for National Report. The outcome of the review of the current format could lead to a draft Resolution to be submitted to MOP3.

101. On the issue of harmonization of reporting Christoph Zöckler pointed out that work on this is done by UNEP-WCMC.

102. The question was raised if the work plan should be submitted to MOP for adoption or just as a piece of information. It was agreed to submit the work plan as piece of information.

103. The TC reviewed the 1st draft of the work plan and names were added to each activity. The final version is attached hereto as Annex 2

104. Some discussion took place on review of policies on phasing out use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands. The Secretariat was requested, in close cooperation e.g. with CIC, to review the experiences of those countries that have phased out, or are endeavouring to phase out, the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands.

105. The Secretariat was requested to update the 2nd draft of the work programme by inclusion of the names of the working group members and to submit the final draft to the TC members.

Recruitment of new TC members

106. According to the Rules of Procedure some of the TC members have to step down at MOP3. Bert Lenten raised the question of how to proceed to get new members for the TC. Then he mentioned the persons that have to step down being: Dan Munteanu, Valentin Serebryakov, Jérôme Mokoko, Charles Mlingwa, Sherif Baha El Din, Eng Khalaf Aloklah, Elijah Danso and Rachele Adam. In his view this Rule is not applicable for organisations represented in the TC, they should be free to nominate the person that should represent them.

107. Sherif Baha El Din proposed that each regional representative should try to identify some experts in his region that could be approached to replace the current member.

108. Bert Lenten offered to send all TC members that have to step down a list of Contracting Parties of their region including the names and address details of the focal points to avoid that the wrong countries or persons are approached.

109. The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will inform Contracting Parties of the region where a TC member is stepping down. Meanwhile TC members that are stepping down, in close consultation with the Secretariat, will look for appropriate experts that could be proposed to the region for replacing them in the TC.

110. The Meeting decided to establish a working group on modus operandi consisting of Rachele Adam, Olivier Biber and the Secretariat, which among other things will look into the problem of stepping down of majority of the TC.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>1) The working group to review modus operandi of the TC and to report back to TC6. 2) The working group to review existing format for National Reports and to report back to TC6 3) The Secretariat to inform Contracting Parties on TC members that will step down. 4) The Secretariat to review experiences of countries that phased out lead shot or are in the process to do that.. 5) The Secretariat to update work plan and to submit revised version to the TC..</i>
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15. Report on activities of other working groups

a) Development of an analytical tool to delimit bio-geographical populations

111. Preben Clausen stated that it is difficult to get good data and specify flyways because of the complex migratory behaviour of duck species e.g. Pintails. In his view proper research has to be done on that to get the answers we are looking for.

112. Herby Kalchreuter mentioned that we have taken the term “flyways” from North America. However flyways there do not concern special populations but regional areas. The management there takes place independent of the biographical limits of the populations. In his view it would be worthwhile to contact the American experts on this issue. This proposal was supported by David Stroud.

113. In the view of Bert Lenten much more work has to be done on this issue, to solve the question. A proposal could be put into the IIP 2006-2009.

114. The Meeting agreed that the enlarged working group consisting of Preben Clausen, David Stroud and Ward Hagemeyer would continue to work on this issue and report back to TC6. Furthermore it was agreed to work close together with Ramsar Bureau and the EU on this issue.

b) Revising Guideline on national legislation

115. Rachelle Adam reported that she revised the guidelines and sent the draft to the TC Members. Now the IUCN Environmental Law Centre to complete its work on this. She asked how long IUCN will need to review the guidelines.

116. Bert Lenten replied that we still have to look at how easy readable the current guideline is. Therefore he contracted Ina von Frantzius, who will, in close cooperation with Rachelle Adam and IUCN, try to improve the guideline. Hopefully the guideline could be finalised in the next few months. Afterwards the guideline will be submitted to the TC for approval and be published as soon as possible.

c) GROMS

117. Ward Hagemeyer reported that so far he did not receive any news from CMS regarding GROMS and therefore no progress has been made on this topic.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>1) Working group will continue to develop analytical tool to delimit bio-geographical populations and will report back to TC6. 2) The Secretariat to finalise the Guideline on National Legislation and to submit the the final draft for approval by the TC.</i>
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16. Project proposals for funding by AEWA (doc. AEWA/ TC 5.12)

118. Bert Lenten introduced doc. 5.12 and explained that for each project a cover note was made with comments/ remarks of the Secretariat.

119. The following decisions were made concerning the project proposals:

Distribution / circulation of scientific and ornithological journals / newsletters to experts and interest groups within the AEWA region

120. Although the TC sees exchange of information as valuable, mailing of documents is not seen as the most efficient way of dissemination of information. It was questioned if Internet e.g. the Agreements' Website could not be used for this purpose. Some of the TC members were in favour of sending hard copies.

121. Another point mentioned was that the proposal was lacking some detailed information on e.g. which journals will be distributed and to whom. Ward Hagemeyer offered to redraft the proposal and to re-submit it.

122. No consensus was reached and therefore the project proposal was for the time being rejected.

International demographic monitoring of migratory waders in Afro-European Flyways during the non-breeding period

123. The TC agreed that this is an important project and it could be endorsed by AEWA. However this project is launched by a NGO based in an industrialized country. In the view of the TC the limited funds available in AEWA should with priority be allocated to support research project proposals from developing countries. Therefore the project was rejected.

*Proposal to draft a Single Species Action Plan for White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala**

124. The TC agreed that Single Species Action Plans should cover the whole flyway and not only e.g. the EU countries. Therefore the TC agreed to adopt this project tentatively waiting for the final approval of the whole project by the EU. The requested funding of 4000 € will be split up between AEWA and CMS.

*Proposal to draft a Single Species Action Plan for Corncrake *Crex crex**

125. For similar reasons as for the White-headed Duck Action Plan the TC approved this project. In total 2500 € was allocated.

Production of a multi-species Action Plan for African coastal seabirds

126. The meeting approved the project proposal. Concerns were raised if the single species Action Plan would fit for a multi-species Action Plan; however no experience has been gained so far on this. Another point that was raised is that the project should also contribute to some capacity building in the region.

Ecological Atlas of the East Atlantic Flyway

127. Some members, being familiar with the original version of this publication in Dutch, had some doubts about the usefulness of this publication outside the Wadden Sea region. It was unclear if the book would be only translated in English or also be updated. Therefore it was decided provisionally to approve the project and to postpone the final decision on this project till after the Global Flyway Conference; where the book would be handed out to all participants.

Funding proposal for AEWA to support the CHASM as part of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program

128. The Secretariat stated that no funds are available to support this project but that it could be added to the International Implementation Priorities 2006-2009.

129. Main comments made were that not sufficient information was available to take a decision on this project. Therefore the Meeting decide to reject the project proposal for the time being.

Action:	<i>Secretariat to inform the project proponents on the outcome of the discussion in the TC and when applicable to contract out the projects.</i>
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17. Development on International Species Action Plans (Doc. AEWA/ TC 5.14)

17 a. New Species Action Plans

130. Bert Lenten reiterated the ongoing activities on drafting an Action Plan for the Northern Bald Ibis. Furthermore he informed the Meeting that the Secretariat is closely involved in the development of an Action Plan for the East Atlantic Canadian High Arctic Light-bellied Brent Goose. This Action Plan is drafted by WWT. Together with CMS AEWA supports the development of an Action Plan for the Ferruginous Duck by the BirdLife partner in Bulgaria. As soon as these Action Plans are ready they will be submitted to the TC for comments. Final adoption is foreseen at MOP3.

17 b. 6th Draft of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Action Plan

131. Bert Lenten gave an introduction to the international Action Plan for the Dark-bellied Brent Goose. During the following discussion remarks and recommendations were made on various points of the Action Plan that will be incorporated into the next draft. Formal consultation of the Range States, particularly with the key-countries, will start as soon as possible.

Action:	<i>1) Submission by the Secretariat of the draft Action Plans as soon as available to TC.. 2) The Secretariat to incorporate amendments made by TC in the Action Plan for the Dark-bellied Brent Goose.. 3) The Secretariat to start formal consultation on the final draft of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Action Plan.</i>
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18. Communication Strategy for the Agreement (doc. AEWA/TC 5.15)

132. Bert Lenten gave a brief introduction to the document and emphasised the importance of the communication strategy for the Agreement. It is planned that the final draft will be submitted to MOP3 for adoption.

133. One of the problems indicated in the communication strategy is the lack of capacity. Although the Secretariat applied in 2003 for a Junior Professional Officer for information management, so far this application has not been successful. Due to the lack of capacity e.g. the Agreements' Website can not be kept up-to-date.

134. As a general comment Petri Nummi raised the point of reaching a wider audience. He referred to the ideas that were discussed regarding the 10th Anniversary.

135. Several detailed comments were made on the first draft, which will be forwarded by the Secretariat to the Consultant.

136. The Chairman and Executive Secretary will bring the more general comments to the workshop during the Global Flyway Conference.

Action:	<i>Comments of the TC on the 1st draft of the Communication Strategy to be submitted to Span Consultant by the Secretariat.</i>
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19. Update on the African-Eurasian Flyway GEF Project

137. Ward Hagemeyer gave an oral report on the progress of the African-Eurasian Flyway GEF Project. By end of 2003 the full-size project of US \$ 12 million had been approved by the GEF council. It is expected that by the second half of 2004 the implementation could start.

138. The question was raised to what extent the TC is involved in the project.

139. Ward Hagemeyer said that AEWA would have a seat in the Steering Committee. The TC could through the Agreement Secretariat be involved in the implementation of the project.

20. Development of the Action Plan for the Central Asian Flyway

140. Ward Hagemeyer gave an oral report on progress made on the Action Plan for the CAF and preparations for a meeting in India in 2004. The idea is to discuss during the meeting in India the CAF Implementation Plan and the framework under which this could take place. Regarding the latter a paper describing three possible options has been drafted. One of these options is the extension of the AEWA Agreement area.

141. Bert Lenten clarified the role of AEWA in this project. During MOP2 it became clear that AEWA should not take the initiative for activities outside the AEWA region. However it should be noted that from the 22 Range States involved in CAF 9 countries are located in the Agreement area. The overlap between CAF and AEWA is a point of concern. In case the region decided to go for a non-legally binding instrument or for a stand-alone agreement under CMS then we have to think about ways of cooperation between CAF and AEWA. If the region decides to go for a legally binding instrument the CMS and AEWA Secretariat agreed to go for extension of the AEWA Agreement area.

142. Christoph Zöckler asked how many countries in the CAF region are Parties to CMS and secondly if the Secretariat has found out which of the three options would be the preferable option for the countries involved. From the discussion he had with some Russian experts he had the feeling that they preferred a stand-alone Agreement under CMS.

143. In response Bert Lenten informed the Meeting that out of the 22 CAF Range States 14 are Party to CMS and 2 to AEWA. From the preliminary discussion in Tashkent (2001) his personal impression was that the countries from the region would be in favour of a legally binding instrument. However it is up to the region to decide on this.

144. Olivier Biber reminded the Meeting of paragraph 169 of the minutes of TC4 where it is stated that the TC did not see any problems at technical or scientific level to extend the AEWA area by inclusion of CAF. In his view this message should be submitted to MOP3.

21. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Technical Committee

145. The Secretariat proposed to hold the next TC meeting in May or June 2005 in Africa, which was agreed by the Meeting.

146. Both the delegates from Ghana and from Mauritius were willing to discuss with the authorities on their return the possibility to hold TC6 in their countries. However they requested the Secretariat to provide them with additional information on requirements for holding such a meeting.

147. The Secretariat promised to provide both delegates with the necessary information and also to make contact with the two countries.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>Secretariat to provide additional information to delegates from Ghana and Mauritius about requirements for hosting TC6. Both delegates will discuss on their return with the authorities to host TC6.</i>
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22. Any other Business

White Stork National Action Plan

148. Olivier Biber reported that the Swiss government has decided to develop a National Action Plan for the White Stork. For this Action Plan the standard AEWA format for Action Plans will be used. If any other AEWA Contracting Party is also working on a National Action Plan he would be interested to exchange information on this.

Obligations from AEWA Action Plan

149. Rachele Adam reminded the TC members that according to paragraph 7.4 of the AEWA Action Plan the Agreement Secretariat, in coordination with the TC and the Parties, shall prepare a series of international reviews necessary for the implementation of the Action Plan. She proposed this should be taken into consideration and requested the Secretariat view on this.

150. Bert Lenten informed the Meeting that although it is an obligation for the Secretariat which has been laid down in paragraph 7.4 of the Action Plan, due to lack of resources it would not be feasible to prepare all these reviews for MOP3.

151. Rachele Adam proposed to bring it to the attention of the MOP that we are aware of these obligations but due to limited resources were not in the position to fulfil all of them.

152. Ward Hagemeyer informed the Meeting that under the GEF project the site networks would be addressed. He hoped that in five years time it could be reported to MOP that we managed to do this.

10th Anniversary of AEWA in 2005

153. Bert Lenten asked for proposals concerning the 10th Anniversary of AEWA.

The following suggestions were made:

- Distribution of good news AEWA stories every couple of weeks in range states. The stories should be readable by the general public and it would be preferable to put them into a newspaper free of charge.
- Declaration of an AEWA day with a motto for every year. All parties could celebrate that day on a national level.
- Drawing contest on rare/ threatened waterbirds for schoolchildren. Each country could submit one drawing to AEWA.
- Ask people to write stories about protection along ten different flyways/ populations. The theme could be 10 years/ ten flyways.
- Prepare a booklet on AEWA development and achievements. This can then also be distributed to non-AEWA countries.

Sustainable Hunting

154. Gilles Deplanques gave a presentation on the work of the Wetlands International Specialist Group on sustainable hunting.

Avian Influenza and the role of AEWA (doc. AEWA/TC 5.16)

155. Bert Lenten briefly introduced the document and raised the question what should be the role of AEWA on this issue and what AEWA could do.

156. The outcome of the discussion was that it is well known that most waterbirds species are carrying viruses. However these viruses are not detrimental for them. The main problem is current husbandry, trading of birds, etc. Therefore the TC did see any added value to be involved in this issue.

157. Bert Lenten added that he will contact CMS, who had a discussion on the same problem at their Scientific Council Meeting, and will find out what they decided to do.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>Secretariat to find out what has been decided by the Scientific Council of CMS on the Avian Flu issue.</i>
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23. Closure of the meeting

158. The Executive Secretary thanked the government of United Kingdom for the impressive support, for hosting the meeting and organising the excellent excursion on the Thursday to the Scottish Seabird Centre and the local wetlands. He handed over some small gifts to the representatives of the Government.

159. The Chairman thanked all the delegates for their cooperation and contributions as well as the Secretariat for having organised and financially supported the TC meeting.

ANNEX 1 : LIST OF ACTION POINTS

Topic	What to do	Who	Deadline	Executed
Rules of Procedure TC	To amend the Rules of Procedure by inserting a Rule in which it is laid down that the Chair of the StC will be invited to attend the TC meetings as an Observer. To submit the revised Rules of Procedure to next StC meeting.	Secretariat Secretariat	Sept 2004	
Minutes of TC4	To amend the Minutes based on the discussion in TC5.	Secretariat	June 2004	
Feedback on comments from TC	To develop more transparent process regarding comments received from TC and feedback of the Secretariat.	Secretariat	Dec 2004	
Guidelines/ Brochure on Avoidance of introduction on Alien Invasive Species	Comments received on Brochure and Guideline will be submitted to the TC.	Secretariat	June 2004	
Funding for Flyway Atlases	To approach EU to seek support for developing Flyway Atlases.	Secretariat	TC6	
Implementation of International Single Species Action Plans	To add this issue for further discussion by TC to the agenda for TC6.	Secretariat	TC6	
Agreements' Website	To re-design the Agreements' Website and to include a discussion forum for the TC.	Secretariat	TC6	
Progress report on ringing schemes in Africa	To request a progress report on this project from ADU and to submit it to the TC.	Secretariat	Sept 2004	
2010 target	To liaise with CBD, Ramsar and CMS to be more involved in the 2010 target and waterbirds as indicators discussion.	Secretariat	TC6	
Project proposals for funding by EU	To develop a list of project proposals to be submitted to the EU for funding.	WG (EK, PC, WH and BL)	Dec 2004	
Report on status and trends of populations for MOP3	To draft new document on how to report on status and trends to MOP3	WG (DS, WH, CZ, JO and PC)	end of June 2004	
National Reports	To remind the Contracting Parties that they have to submit their National reports to MOP3. To make contact with the Ramsar Bureau to find out why they have a good response regarding submission of National Reports.	Secretariat Secretariat	June 2004 June 2004	

Topic	What to do	Who	Deadline	Executed
Format of National Report	To review existing format of National Reports and to report back to TC6	WG (EK, CZ, PC, CM and BL)	TC6	
AEWA guidelines	To publish the Conservation Guidelines on the AEWA website	Secretariat	Sept 2004	
Additional species to be included in AEWA	To review the list of species that is proposed for inclusion in the Agreement including the threats they are facing.	WG (PC, WH, CZ, RA, SB, VS, JO, GO, GD and BL)	TC6	
Interpretation of the term long-term decline	To further elaborate the paper on long-term decline of populations.	WG (EK, GO, WH, PC and DS)	Dec 2004	
Work plan TC	To update work plan and to submit it to the TC	Secretariat	May 2004	
Recruitment of new TC members	To inform the Contracting Parties on TC members that will step down and request for proposals for replacements.	Secretariat	June 2004	
<i>Modus operandi</i> of the TC	To review <i>modus operandi</i> of the TC	WG (RA, OB and BL)	TC6	
Delimitation of bio-geographical populations of waterbirds	To continue to develop an analytical tool to delimit bio-geographical populations.	WG (PC, DS and WH)	TC6	
Guideline on National Legislation	To finalise the Guideline on National Legislation and submission of final draft to the TC.	Secretariat, IUCN and RA	Sept 2004	
Project proposals submitted to TC for approval	To inform the proponents of the project proposals submitted to AEWA for funding on outcome of the discussion in the TC, and where applicable to contract out these projects.	Secretariat	May 2004	
Dark-bellied Brent Goose Management Plan	To incorporate comments made by the TC in the 5 th draft of the D-b Brent Goose Action Plan. To start formal consultation process with the Range States of the D-b Brent Goose.	Secretariat Secretariat	May 2004 May 2004	
New International Species Action Plans	To submit to the TC the draft Action Plan as soon as available.	Secretariat	n.a.	

Topic	What to do	Who	Deadline	Executed
GROMS	To seek information from CMS and Dr Klaus Riede on future development of GROMS To pass on to the TC members any information on CMS's plans for GROMS	WG GROMS Secretariat		
Communication Strategy	To submit the amendments made by TC to the Consultant	Secretariat	May 2004	
Avian Flu	To find out what has been decided on Avian Flu at the CMS Scientific Council meeting.	Secretariat	May 2004	
Acceptance of project proposals	To develop criteria and guidelines for the acceptance of proposals for project to be funded by AEWA.	WG: OB, DS, WH, BL		
Date and venue TC6	To provide additional information on requirements for hosting TC6 to representatives of Ghana and Mauritius. To discuss with the authorities hosting TC6	Secretariat YM and ED	May 2004 August 2004	
IIP 2003 – 2007	To establish a Working Group to set criteria for inclusion of new project in future IIPs and to assess priorities among the project of IIP 2003-2007 for which no funds have been earmarked yet.	TC		
Phasing out lead shot	To review the experiences that phased out the use of lead shot or are in the process to do that.	Secretariat, CIC	TC6	