

RESOLUTION 3.8

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES TO THE AGREEMENT

Recalling Article X of the Agreement concerning the procedures to amend the Action Plan and its Annexes,

Recalling the importance of ensuring that proposals for amendment to the Agreement are in accordance with the procedure set down in Article X of the Agreement, which is necessary to ensure that Parties have sufficient time to prepare appropriately for adopting decisions at the Meeting of the Parties,

Considering that the Meeting of the Parties should provide to the subsidiary bodies further clarification on their role in the procedures to be followed in application of Article IV to facilitate the smooth functioning of the Agreement,

Recalling Resolution 2.1, adopted at the Second Meeting of the Parties in Bonn, Germany in September 2002, which amended Annexes 2 and 3 to the Agreement, and requested the Technical Committee of the Agreement, in close cooperation with the Agreement Secretariat and in close consultation with the relevant bodies of the Convention on Migratory Species, to review further development of the Agreement by including additional species of wetland birds and species traditionally considered to be seabirds, looking in first instance at the species listed in Table 2 and 3 of AEWA/MOP 2.9, expanding Table 3 to species from the whole of Africa, and considering, in particular, the extent to which the existing Action Plan is adequate in its scope to address differing conservation problems faced by birds of prey, passerines and other taxonomic groups using wetlands,

Convinced of the need regularly to update the Action Plan, taking into account species of conservation concern not yet included in the existing Action Plan,

Aware of the ongoing activities under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals regarding the development of a legal instrument for the conservation of Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian region,

Further aware of the lack of knowledge regarding the conservation status, migration patterns and distribution of passerines particularly in Africa, which is fundamental to assess measures necessary to conserve these species,

Welcoming the work carried as follow up to Resolution 2.1 in relation to seabirds in view of the increased concern about their conservation status, *having reviewed* documents AEWA/MOP 3.16, entitled "Proposal for new species to be added to AEWA Annex 2", and AEWA/MOP 3.29.Rev.2, entitled "Proposal for amendment of the Action Plan to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds", *having taken note* of the proposed changes to Annex 2 (List of Species) to the Agreement, and to the text and to Table 1 of the Action Plan (Annex 3),

Aware that in the current Annex 2 to the Agreement, as adopted by previous Meetings of the Parties, several listed species are traditionally considered as seabirds,

Acknowledging that many seabirds spend most of their life cycle in the pelagic marine environment and face different conservation threats than species currently covered by the Agreement, and require management measures that are addressed *inter alia* the context of fisheries bodies, including regional fisheries management organizations.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Regrets* that due to the late circulation of documents and the lack of opportunity for the subsidiary bodies to assess them, the Meeting of the Parties is not in a position to amend Table 1 of the Action Plan to the Agreement at the current session;
2. *Invites* Parties to take into account the information contained in Table 1 annexed to Doc AEWA/MOP3.29.Rev.2 when adopting conservation measures in accordance with the Agreement;
3. *Invites* Parties to indicate to the Secretariat their particular concerns regarding the information contained in Table 1 annexed to Doc AEWA/MOP3.29.Rev.2 and regarding the addition of 21 species to Annex 2 before the next meeting of the Technical Committee;
4. *Reinforces* the call by the Technical Committee that any changes to Table 1 of the Action Plan be based upon transparent sources of data and information and that the triennial Status Review should provide a clear audit of such justifications;
5. *Requests* the Standing Committee, in view of the assessment by the Technical Committee of updated information consolidated by the Secretariat, to review Table 1 of the Action Plan, and if appropriate, communicate to the Secretariat a proposal for its amendment not less than 150 days before the opening of future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with Article X of the Agreement;
6. *Requests* Parties to support the adoption and application of measures in the context of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds and combat Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing practices in the area of application of the Agreement;
7. *Requests* the Technical Committee, in close co-operation with the Agreement Secretariat and consultation with the relevant bodies of the Convention, to further consider the potential role of the Agreement in the conservation of seabirds, taking into account the actions being undertaken by the RFMOs and other relevant international organisations, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and to report to the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.