



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF  
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS



**4<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**  
15 – 19 September 2008, Antananarivo, Madagascar

*“Flyway Conservation at Work – Review of the Past, Vision for the Future”*

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RESOLUTION 4.1

**PHASING OUT LEAD SHOT FOR HUNTING IN WETLANDS**

*Recalling* Resolution 2.2 of the second Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement, calling upon Contracting Parties to enhance their efforts to phase out the use of lead shot in wetlands as soon as possible and to report to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties on progress made to phase out lead shot in accordance with self-imposed and published timetables, and to specify how they plan to overcome any problems encountered,

*Further recalling* Resolution 3.4 of the third Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement, urging all Contracting Parties again to submit reports on their progress made to phase out lead shot one hundred and twenty days before the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties,

*Noting* that in line with Resolution 3.11 on International Implementation Priorities 2006 – 2008, an update report on the use of non-toxic shot<sup>1</sup> for hunting in wetlands has been completed<sup>2</sup>,

*Pointing out* that the update report shows that since 2000 the number of AEWA Range States having banned the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands has increased from six to twelve countries, that an additional five countries have partly banned the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands, and that several countries are in the process of introducing legislation or addressing the problem on a voluntary basis,

*Expressing deep concern, however,* that the update report also shows that implementation of paragraph 4.1.4 of the Action Plan is still inadequate in the majority of Range States,

*Welcoming* that the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU and the General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation request the phasing out of the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands at the latest by 2009 and 2010, respectively,

*Noting* that experiences of countries which have phased out the use of lead shot are positive and that the use of non-toxic shot is proving satisfactory,

*Concluding, however,* from the update report that the main factors impeding compliance are lack of information and communication, and that therefore raising awareness on the problems resulting from the use of lead shot and on the availability and affordability of non-toxic shot is an important issue,

*Acknowledging* that some Range States lack the expertise and finances to set up such information and communication networks,

*Welcoming* the training and awareness-raising activities undertaken by national and international hunting organizations with respect to replacing lead shot for hunting in wetlands by non-toxic shot, and

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<sup>1</sup> Lead-free shot.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. AEWA/MOP 4.7.

*Convinced* that further action is needed to improve the situation.

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Urges* Contracting Parties to phase out the use of lead shot in wetlands as soon as possible, in accordance with the recommendations from the update report on the use of non-toxic shot for hunting in wetlands – namely, to promote communication between, and awareness within, authorities and the hunting community; to put emphasis on the education of hunters, especially new hunters, in order to provide them with sufficient information about non-toxic shot through hunting associations and conservation NGOs; and to stimulate and facilitate the replacement of lead shot by non-toxic shot;
2. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties, in accordance with Resolution 2.2 to continue reporting to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties on progress made to phase out the use of lead shot in wetlands in accordance with self-imposed and published timetables, and to specify how they plan to overcome any problems encountered;
3. *Strongly urges* the Contracting Parties, which have not yet phased out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands, to publish self-imposed timetables for completing the phase out as soon as possible and to inform the Secretariat accordingly by 30 September 2009;
4. *Also urges* Contracting Parties to establish enforcement procedures to assure national compliance with an introduced ban and to establish monitoring procedures to assess its effectiveness;
5. *Further urges* Contracting Parties which have already phased out the use of lead shot in wetlands, or which are in the process of doing so, to share their experiences and information material with the international hunting community, the Secretariat, and other Range States;
6. *Invites* other Multilateral Environmental Agreements to join in a common effort with AEWA to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands;
7. *Instructs* the Secretariat, resources permitting, to continue gathering and disseminating knowledge and expertise at the international level by making information materials available to those countries which need them;
8. *Further instructs* the Secretariat, resources permitting, to facilitate, in close cooperation with hunting and other organisations, workshops for hunters in different regions as appropriate to promote the use of non-toxic shot instead of lead shot for hunting in wetlands;
9. *Invites* the national and international hunting associations and other relevant bodies and institutions to further develop and implement awareness raising and training activities for hunters related to phasing out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands;
10. *Instructs* the Secretariat, resources permitting, to assist countries, especially developing countries, countries with economies in transition and Small Island Developing States, to achieve the phasing out of lead shot in wetlands;
11. *Calls upon* ammunition manufacturers and traders to actively promote the replacement of lead shot by non-toxic shot for hunting in wetlands and provide guidance for its use;
12. *Requests* the Technical Committee to examine, as far as waterbird species covered by the Agreement are concerned, any potential problems from the use of lead shot in terrestrial ecosystems as well as from the use of lead fishing weights; and
13. *Invites* the governments of Contracting Parties and of other countries as well as donor organisations to

allocate financial support to carry out the above activities leading to the development and implementation of national legislation concerning the use of non-toxic shot instead of lead shot.