



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS



4th 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”

RESOLUTION 4.7

**ADOPTION OF STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2009-2017 AND ONLINE
NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT**

Recalling Resolution 3.9, which instructed the Standing Committee to prepare a Strategic Plan for the Agreement, in close cooperation with the Technical Committee and the Secretariat and to submit this plan for adoption to the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP4),

Acknowledging the work of the consultant, the Secretariat, and the Technical and Standing Committees regarding the preparation of the draft Strategic Plan 2009-2017 for presentation to MOP4 in document AEWA/MOP 4.19,

Aware that the Strategic Plan establishes clear priorities to guide the work of the Contracting Parties, the Technical and Standing Committees, and the Secretariat,

Further recalling Resolution 3.5, which instructed the Secretariat to develop an online national report format in close cooperation with the Technical Committee and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Secretariat, while seeking to advance the harmonization of reporting with other international biodiversity agreements, and to submit it for approval to MOP4,

Further acknowledging the work carried out by the Secretariat and the Technical Committee on revising and enhancing the national report format for further online application,

Congratulating the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the launch and implementation of the project “*Strengthening the Implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions through the Strategic Use of Information: Knowledge Management among MEAs*” in the framework of which, *inter alia*, UNEP’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre developed an electronic platform for online reporting, including an AEWA online national reporting facility, and examined the possible options for harmonized reporting of the biodiversity-related multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs),

Aware that a versatile online national reporting facility will ease the reporting burden for the Contracting Parties and should therefore increase the rate of submission of national reports, as well as providing a tool for assessment and monitoring of national implementation, and

Noting that the Strategic Plan for 2009-2017 and the revised national report format have been developed simultaneously and are linked and synchronised with each other.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the Strategic Plan for the Agreement for the period 2009-2017 as appended to the present Resolution, subject to availability of resources, and opportunities for synergies in staff collaboration within the CMS family and with other related organisations;

2. *Adopts* and approves the use of the online national report format as presented in document AEWA/MOP 4.20 for reporting of the Contracting Parties to future MOPs;
3. *Urges* Contracting Parties, the Secretariat and all other identified stakeholders to establish budgeted work plans on the basis of the Strategic Plan and actively to implement them;
4. *Urges* Contracting Parties, including developing countries and countries with economies in transition proportionate to their capacities, as well as donor organisations to make available financial resources for the full implementation of the Strategic Plan;
5. *Requests* bilateral and multilateral donors to provide financial assistance to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and Small Island Developing States for the implementation of their work plans associated with the Strategic Plan of the Agreement;
6. *Instructs* the Standing Committee to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan and to report the progress to each ordinary session of the MOP;
7. *Further instructs* the Standing Committee to revise the *modus operandi* of the Small Grants Fund as defined in Resolution 2.9 and approve it for further use;
8. *Requests* Contracting Parties to provide financial resources for the successful and efficient operation of the Small Grants Fund;
9. *Urges* Contracting Parties to utilise the online national reporting facility and to regularly report to each MOP as thoroughly as possible, as well as to provide feedback on the lessons learned as a result of the use of the online reporting;
10. *Instructs* the Secretariat to make the new format available in an offline version of the national reporting facility for the use of countries, which do not have readily available internet services;
11. *Instructs* the Standing Committee to amend the national report format after each MOP so as to bring it in line with any relevant decisions of each session of the MOP and/or to enhance it, as necessary;
12. *Requests* the Secretariat, working closely with the Secretariat of the CMS, and with the assistance of UNEP, as necessary, to further advance harmonization of the national report formats of AEWA and CMS, where possible;
13. *Further requests* UNEP to continue with the implementation of its project on “*Strengthening the Implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions through the Strategic Use of Information: Knowledge Management among MEAs*” with additional initiatives, which *inter alia* will assist in the development of analytical and synthesis tools for information provided via the online national reporting facility and take into account feedback obtained from Contracting Parties based on their utilization of the online format; and
14. *Further requests* the donor community to support and provide financial resources to enable the Secretariat to continue working in collaboration with UNEP and UNEP-WCMC to implement activities intended to strengthen the online format for national reporting.

Appendix 1

**Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian
Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)**

Strategic Plan 2009-2017

Final Draft

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Introduction

This document presents the first Strategic Plan for the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, based on a draft prepared by Gwen van Boven, SPAN Consultants. The Strategic Plan aims at providing the context for implementation of the Agreement, putting forward a medium-term perspective, by setting the overall goal, the objectives and targets for a period of nine years.

AEWA aims to contribute to global biodiversity conservation by furthering migratory waterbird conservation at flyway level. As such, the Strategic Plan is intended to provide coherent and strategic guidance to the Contracting Parties to AEWA and other actors in their endeavour to act effectively nationally and regionally while cooperating internationally along the flyways. The Strategic Plan will further provide guidance to the AEWA's governing bodies (the Meeting of the Parties, the Standing Committee and the Technical Committee) and the Secretariat.

Background

At the 8th Conference of Parties in Nairobi in November 2005, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) presented a Strategic Plan for 2006-2011. This plan sets the role of and challenges for CMS, identifies a vision and goal and formulates four objectives to achieve this goal. The Strategic Plan, being an operational guide to Convention implementation, then takes the form of a Logical Framework in which activities are worked out, including targets and milestones.

In chapter 5.3 of its Strategic Plan, the CMS encourages all daughter instruments, amongst others, *"... to develop their own strategic or implementation plans linked, as far as possible, to the Convention's Strategic Plan through a system of cascading logical frameworks which shows how their work contributes to the attainment of CMS objectives and targets"*.

AEWA

The African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) is a stand-alone Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) which was developed in the framework of CMS¹ and concluded on 16 June 1995 in the Hague, the Netherlands. AEWA is the main tool to implement CMS in the African-Eurasian region with regard to waterbirds. This is the largest legal flyway conservation instrument established globally so far (*figure 1*). The Agreement has developed rapidly since it entered into force in 1999. The call for strategic guidance and priority setting has been growing equally strongly with the growth of the number of Parties, activities and implementation priorities.

In line with this call, the Contracting Parties at their 3rd MOP in Dakar in 2005 have decided to develop a Strategic Plan for AEWA, as laid down in Resolution 3.9, which is aimed at providing AEWA with the operational instrument to the Agreement that strategically and practically fits the AEWA implementation in the coming years.

As mentioned above, the basis and starting point for the AEWA Strategic Plan is the CMS Strategic Plan, to which it can be considered as a supplement. It will elaborate on the CMS Strategic Plan, and will provide specific detail on the implementation of waterbird conservation along the African-Eurasian Flyways. Cooperation with the CMS will be intrinsic to this implementation at all times.

Approach

Many of the CMS Parties who have been involved in drafting the CMS Strategic Plan, are also Contracting Parties to AEWA. During that process, considerable strategic thinking has been done that fits the AEWA Strategic Plan as well. It is therefore expected that the Parties will support the

¹ AEWA was developed in accordance with Article IV of CMS. AEWA constitutes part of the CMS family of international agreements and is a separate independently-functioning MEA.

development of a Strategic Plan for AEWA along similar lines to the CMS Strategic Plan, in terms of format. In addition, however, the AEWA Strategic Plan formulates the Agreement’s specific objectives and targets to reflect AEWA’s distinct identity and role.

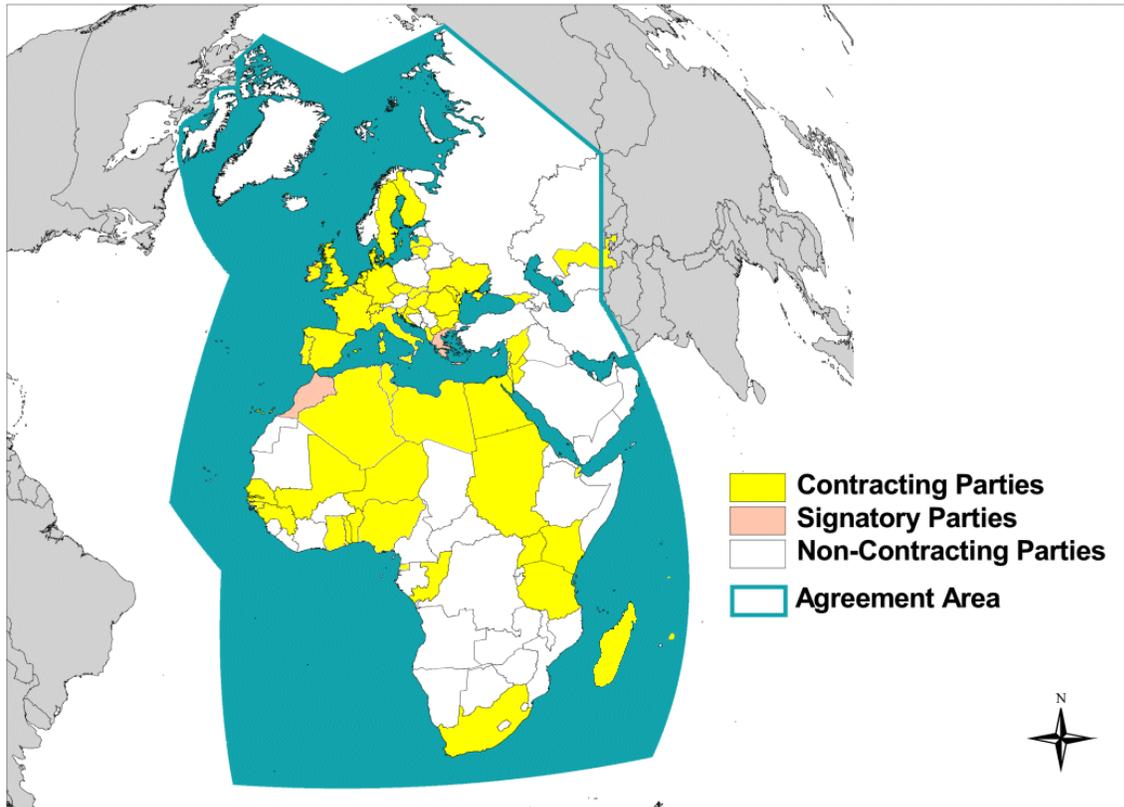


Figure 1. Geographical scope of AEWA (Contracting Parties as of August 2008)

Duration

This Strategic Plan has been developed for adoption by MOP4 in 2008. It is valid for a period of nine years, from 2009 – 2017. In 2017, a new Strategic Plan will be ready for consideration by the parties at MOP7. This Strategic Plan could be reviewed and amended at each MOP if deemed necessary (please see chapter Evaluation & Review on page 9).

The AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017

Scope

The AEWA Strategic Plan is intended to provide the coherent and strategic framework for implementation of the Agreement by its constituents: the Contracting Parties, its governing bodies (the Standing Committee and the Technical Committee), its Secretariat and the partners to the Agreement. It is structured along the format of a hierarchical logical framework.

Vision

All countries along the African-Eurasian Flyways share viable waterbird populations, and people throughout the region understand, respect, facilitate and sustain the phenomenon of their migration.

Waterbirds are a shared resource, and their conservation requires a shared responsibility towards sustainable management of the different species, their populations and their flyways. This long-term vision reflects the philosophy of AEWA that waterbird conservation and people should go hand in hand, thus contributing to the conservation of global biodiversity.

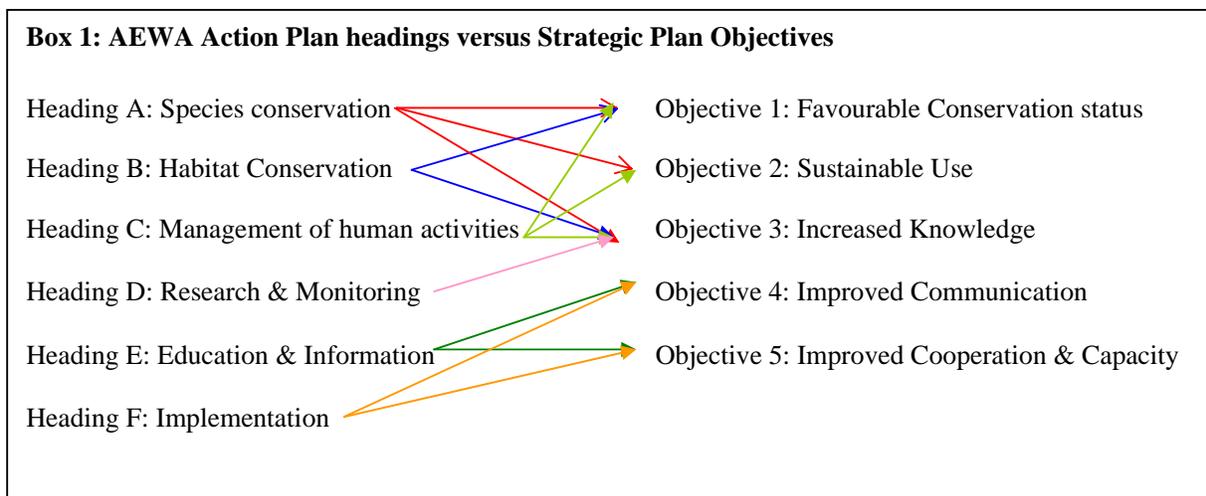
Goal

To maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways.

At the core of flyway conservation is collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders along these flyways, both within countries as well as internationally. AEWA facilitates this cooperation at all levels, stimulating Parties to contribute effectively to international conservation, for instance through improved national practices, international collaboration, and joint working.

Structure

The Action Plan of the Agreement (Annex 3), is organised along the following headings: A) species conservation; B) habitat conservation, C) management of human activities; D) research & monitoring; E) education & information; F) implementation. These Action Plan headings form the basis for AEWA's objectives as defined in the Strategic Plan, as shown in Box 1:



The first three objectives refer to professional and technical competences combined within AEWA, and its role related to conservation interventions, sustainable use and knowledge development and management. The fourth and fifth objectives are directed towards AEWA's facilitating role, aimed at improving awareness and understanding, as well as improving international cooperation and increasing capacity towards the Agreement's functioning.

Within the Strategic Plan's Logical Framework, the targets have been made sure to fit the National Reporting Format, so that progress on the implementation towards meeting these targets can be

verified with the National Reports. These are therefore included at the appropriate places in the log frame as means of verification.

Targets and indicators

To achieve each objective, a series of targets has been set. With the help of quantifiable indicators, the success of these targets can be measured at certain moments in time. The sources of these indicators have been identified as well, and have been reflected in the table as ‘means of verification’.

Objectives

The objectives read as follows; to once more reflect consistency with the Agreement text, the Action Plan (AP) headings indicated in Annex 3 (and in the diagram in Box 2) are indicated between brackets:

***Objective 1:** To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations
(AP Headings: A, B, C)*

This objective concentrates on the core business of AEWA: ensuring favorable conservation status of waterbird species and their populations. This will be achieved when the overall conservation status of waterbird species throughout the AEWA range improves. The desired result behind this objective is that by 2017, across the AEWA region, the number of waterbird species with a growing or stable population is larger than the number of waterbird species with a declining population. Five concrete targets have been formulated that will help achieve this objective:

- 1.1. Full legal protection is provided to all Column A species
- 1.2. A comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds is established and maintained, while taking into account the existing networks and climate change
- 1.3. Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessments is used to reduce the impact of new development on waterbird species and populations
- 1.4. Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) are developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3 marked with an asterisk on column A of Table 1
- 1.5. Waterbirds are considered thoroughly in the context of the delivery of National Action Plans on non-native species by other international fora, such as CBD, Bern Convention, and GISP

***Objective 2:** To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable
(AP Headings A, C)*

Tackling successfully the issue of unsustainable use of waterbirds is a key prerequisite for achieving the goal of this strategic plan. The desired result under this objective is that by 2017, across the AEWA region a number of unsustainable practices were eliminated, while facilitating processes were introduced and implemented. Five targets have been set to this effect:

- 2.1. The use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out in all Contracting Parties
- 2.2. Internationally coordinated collection of harvest data is developed and implemented
- 2.3. Measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking are developed and implemented
- 2.4. Best practice codes and standards, such as bird identification, are developed and promoted, in order to achieve proper enforcement of legally binding provisions
- 2.5. Adaptive harvest management² of quarry populations is ensured at international scale

Objective 3: *To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them as a basis for conservation action*
(AP Headings: A, B, C, D)

The availability of good scientific knowledge, as well as traditional, locally available knowledge, is a prerequisite to achieving AEWA's overall goal. The desired result is that by 2017, or if possible earlier, sufficient knowledge is available and accessible on species and their populations, their flyways, threats to them and successful conservation measures. To facilitate further sharing, generation and improvement of knowledge, specially related to appropriate research and monitoring, the following five targets have been formulated:

- 3.1. Necessary resources are in place to support, on a long-term basis, the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment.
- 3.2. Capacity of national monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds is established, maintained and further developed
- 3.3. Nationally responsible state agencies, academic and other wildlife related research institutions are encouraged to establish research programmes to support implementation of waterbird conservation priorities
- 3.4. Best practices, including in particular traditional knowledge, for waterbird conservation programmes are collated and incorporated
- 3.5. Sharing and accessibility of relevant data and information are enhanced so as to underpin relevant conservation decision making

Objective 4: *To improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the need for measures to conserve them and their habitats*
(AP Headings: E, F)

Within the past three years, the AEWA has developed a communication strategy that provides the framework for communication related work of the Agreement. It is desired that targeted audiences as specified in the AEWA Communication Strategy are better informed about migratory waterbird species, their populations and flyways, are aware of threats to them and understand and support the need for their conservation. The three specific targets that have been formulated reflect the communication strategy's intentions and aim to secure its implementation and updating as follows:

- 4.1. Support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS) is secured
- 4.2. The AEWA Communication Strategy is implemented
- 4.3. Awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general and of AEWA in particular are increased at all levels within the Contracting Parties

² Adaptive Harvest Management is the periodic process of setting hunting regulations based on a system of population and habitat monitoring, harvest level recording, data analysis and defining regulatory options.

Objective 5: *To improve the capacity of Range States and international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways*
(AP Headings: E, F)

Cooperation – within the Contracting Parties, as well as between them internationally - is at the core of flyway conservation. There is a need to improve cooperation and increase AEWA's capacity to do that with the aim of achieving by 2017, notably through the strengthening of AEWA's facilitation role and increasing its capacity, a more streamlined implementation of the Agreement at national level and better cooperation at the international level. The following eight specific targets have been designed to achieve results at all levels:

- 5.1. The membership of the Agreement is expanded
- 5.2. Sufficient funding for the implementation of the SP is raised from different sources
- 5.3. Cooperation with other MEAs and key partners is enhanced
- 5.4. The Small Grants Fund (SGF)³ is activated
- 5.5. The rate of submission of National Reports is increased
- 5.6. Capacity of national staff to implement the Agreement is increased through proper training mechanisms
- 5.7. Appropriate national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity MEAs are established
- 5.8. AEWA is recognized by other biodiversity MEAs as an MEA whose effectiveness in protecting waterbirds can be used as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level

Operational principles

Reflecting the interlinkages of AEWA, its sister agreements and its mother convention CMS and their common fundamental working philosophy, several cross-cutting issues have been identified which, in the pursuit of implementing the Strategic Plan, will be adopted and applied as Operational Principles in all activities where appropriate:

- OP 1: The Strategic Plan is the guiding document for the implementation of the Agreement; linking the Agreement Text and Action Plan with implementation
- OP 2: To respect the general principles of the United Nations throughout all phases of implementation
- OP 3: To cooperate closely with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and key partners, harmonizing initiatives wherever possible, in particular with CMS and its other agreements
- OP 4: To foster awareness of the concept of sustainable use, and the positive role of migratory waterbirds on livelihoods of communities along their flyways
- OP 5: To increase the ability of all Parties, and in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan
- OP 6: To stimulate Parties to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Agreement

³ The 1st Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA in its Resolution 1.7 decided on the establishment of an AEWA Conservation Small Grants Fund to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement similarly to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use. To date this Fund never became operational, but it yet represents a major potential for providing valuable resources to eligible countries to implement provisions of AEWA.

- OP 7: To strive to attract matching funding for project activities
- OP 8: To strive, at all times, to make the most efficient use of the limited available financial and human resources
- OP 9: By aiming at the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the African-Eurasian region this Strategic Plan contributes to the conservation of global biodiversity
- OP 10: To seize and promote opportunities for capacity building at all levels throughout the Agreement area

Implementation & Finances

This Strategic Plan is aimed at optimising the implementation of the AEWA in a realistic way, and in line with the internally set Operational Principles as outlined above. Implementation can be ensured only when the appropriate means, both financial and in human capacity, are made available at the level of the Secretariat, as well as in the Contracting Parties themselves and among the partners of the Agreement. In this respect, special reference is made to Objective 5 of this Strategic Plan.

Evaluation & Review

Evaluation of performance, achievements and impact is intrinsically linked to coherent and strategic implementation of the Agreement, and therefore to its Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan may be reviewed by each MOP if so deemed necessary, in order to reflect updates on progress made at target and indicator level. However, this Strategic Plan is meant to provide a long term perspective on AEWA functioning, which should be reflected in its validity throughout its period.

The Strategic Plan and the newly developed National Reporting Format have been designed so as to feed into each other, enabling easy reporting as well as monitoring of progress with achieving the targets set in the Strategic Plan. The Contracting Parties, and other main actors, are requested to develop their own Work Plans to ensure implementation of this Strategic Plan at their level.

In addition, it is recommended that a Secretarial Work Plan be prepared to accompany the Strategic Plan. This Secretarial Work Plan will link the targets set in the Strategic Plan to clear, measurable activities, including timing, budget, responsible persons, etc. It will also provide coherence with the International Implementation Priorities that have been set by the Agreement. The Secretarial Work Plan may then be regularly revised as the MOP deems it necessary, while the Strategic Plan continues to provide the long-term context within which AEWA operates.

Amendments to the Strategic Plan could be approved by any MOP. In order for proposed amendments to be included for consideration, they need to be communicated to the AEWA Secretariat no later than 150 days prior to the MOP, as such linked to the deadline for the submission of proposals for amendments to the Agreement.

Logical Framework Table

AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017

	Targets <i>(Targets to achieve by 2017)</i>	Indicators <i>(Quantifiable measures of achievement)</i>	Means of Verification <i>(Sources of information for indicators)</i>	Main Actors
<p>Vision</p> <p>All countries along the African-Eurasian Flyways share viable waterbird populations and people throughout the region understand, respect, facilitate and sustain the phenomenon of their migration</p>				
<p>Goal</p> <p>To maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways</p>		<p>At the Agreement level, within the period of this SP:</p> <p>No AEWA waterbird population has become extinct in the Agreement area</p> <p>All AEWA waterbird populations currently at favourable conservation status have retained that status</p> <p>At least 75%⁴ of the AEWA waterbird populations have a positive trend (growing or stable)</p> <p>Overall status of indicator</p>	<p>CSR AEWA Table 1 IUCN Red List</p>	

⁴ The AEWA Conservation Status Review 4 (2008) assessed that 59% of the populations with known trends (n=370) have stable or growing trends. 29% of all AEWA populations (n=522) are with unknown trends and 41% of all populations are either stable or growing.

	Targets <i>(Targets to achieve by 2017)</i>	Indicators <i>(Quantifiable measures of achievement)</i>	Means of Verification <i>(Sources of information for indicators)</i>	Main Actors
		<p>species has improved, as measured by the Waterbird Indicator</p> <p>Overall extinction risk of waterbirds reduced, as measured by the Red List Index</p> <p>20% of threatened and Near Threatened species downlisted to lower categories of threat</p> <p>Fewer populations to be listed in Category 1 in Column A (20% reduction)</p> <p>Fewer populations to be listed in Column A (5% reduction)</p> <p>At the National level, within the period of this SP:</p> <p>No AEWA waterbird population has gone extinct as a breeding, migrating, or wintering (whichever is applicable) species in any CPs territory</p> <p>Current favourable status of AEWA waterbirds, as breeding, migrating or</p>	<p>National reports (<i>Species matrix – species status, national red listing status</i>)</p>	

	Targets (Targets to achieve by 2017)	Indicators (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	Means of Verification (Sources of information for indicators)	Main Actors
		wintering species, within any CPs has been retained At least 75% of AEWA waterbird species occurring in any CP have a positive trend (stable or growing) 20% of threatened and Near Threatened species downlisted to lower categories of threat in each CP		
Objective 1 To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations				
	1.1 Full legal protection is provided to all Column A species	All CPs have adopted national legislation protecting all Column A species	National reports (<i>Species matrix – legal status</i>)	CPs
	1.2 A comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds is established and maintained, while taking into account the existing networks and climate change	All CPs have in place and maintain comprehensive national networks of sustainably-managed protected and other managed areas that form a coherent flyway site network that aims to be resilient to the effects of climate change	National reports (<i>Pressures and responses – 5. Habitat conservation, 5.1. Habitat inventories, 5.2. Conservation of areas, questions 13 and 15</i>)	CPs
	1.3 Environmental Impact	All CPs use EIA/SEA to	National reports	CPs

	Targets (Targets to achieve by 2017)	Indicators (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	Means of Verification (Sources of information for indicators)	Main Actors
	Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessments is used to reduce the impact of new development on waterbird species and populations	reduce the impact on waterbirds	(Pressures and responses – 6. Management of human activities, 6.2. Other human activities, questions 21 and 22)	
	1.4 Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) are developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3 marked with an asterisk on column A of Table 1	SSAPs in place and are being effectively implemented for all globally threatened species and species marked with an asterisk	National reports (Pressures and responses – 4. Species conservation, 4.2. SSAPs, questions 2 and 3) AEWA review on the stage of preparation and implementation of SSAPs	CPs, Secretariat
	1.5 Waterbirds are considered thoroughly in the context of the delivery of National Action Plans on non-native species by other international fora, such as CBD, Bern Convention, and GISP	CPs have incorporated, as part of National Action Plans on non-native species, specific measures for invasive non-native species of waterbirds and are implementing them in order to ensure their control or eradication	National reports (Pressures and responses – 4. Species conservation, 4.5. Introductions, questions 9-11) AEWA review on the status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrids thereof	CPs
Objective 2 To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable				
	2.1 The use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased	All CPs have adopted national legislation prohibiting the use	National reports (Pressures and responses – 6. Management of human	CPs Hunters' organizations

	Targets (Targets to achieve by 2017)	Indicators (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	Means of Verification (Sources of information for indicators)	Main Actors
	out in all CPs	of lead shot (in wetlands) No authenticated report of continued use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands in the Agreement area is received by the Secretariat	<i>activities, 6.1. Hunting, question 18)</i> AEWA review on the use of lead shot	Hunters
	2.2 Internationally coordinated collection of harvest data is developed and implemented	Internationally coordinated harvest data collection in place involving at least 25% of the CPs	National reports (<i>Pressures and responses – 6. Management of human activities, 6.1. Hunting, question 17)</i> AEWA review on pertinent hunting and trade legislation	CPs FACE and other hunters' organizations
	2.3 Measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking are developed and implemented	All CPs have pertinent legislation in place which is being fully enforced	National reports (<i>Pressures and responses – 6. Management of human activities, 6.1. Hunting, question 19)</i> AEWA review on pertinent hunting and trade legislation	CPs Hunter's organizations
	2.4. Best practice codes and standards, such as bird identification, are developed and prompted, in order to achieve proper enforcement of legally	Half of CPs are effectively enforcing legally binding best practice standards	AEWA review on pertinent hunting and trade legislation	CPs Hunter's organizations

	Targets (Targets to achieve by 2017)	Indicators (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	Means of Verification (Sources of information for indicators)	Main Actors
	binding provisions			
	2.5. Adaptive harvest management of quarry populations is ensured at international scale	International harvest management plans (IHMP) for two quarry populations developed and implemented	Review on implementation of IHMP	CPs, Secretariat, Hunter's organisations
Objective 3 To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them, as a basis for conservation action				
	3.1 Necessary resources are in place to support, on a long-term basis, the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment.	Timely production of annual IWC summary report and the AEWAs CSR and global <i>Waterbird Population Estimates</i> 50% increase of species/populations whose international status is being assessed with regular monitoring data	Reports by Wetlands International Conservations Status Review	CPs and other donors, Secretariat, Wetlands International
	3.2. Capacity of national monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds is established, maintained and further developed	Half of CPs with year-round (as appropriate) monitoring systems in place	National reports (<i>Pressures and responses – 7. Research and monitoring, question 25</i>)	CPs
	3.3. Nationally responsible state agencies, academic and other wildlife related research institutions are encouraged to establish research programmes	Ten new AEWAs-linked research programmes	National reports (<i>Pressures and responses – 7. Research and monitoring, question 27</i>)	CPs, Secretariat

	Targets (Targets to achieve by 2017)	Indicators (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	Means of Verification (Sources of information for indicators)	Main Actors
	to support implementation of waterbird conservation priorities		Secretarial report to MOP	
	3.4. Best practices, including traditional knowledge, for waterbird conservation programmes are collated and incorporated	50 best practices collated and published at www.conservationevidence.com ⁵	www.conservationevidence.com	CPs , NGOs, Hunter's organisations
	3.5. Sharing and accessibility of relevant data and information are enhanced so as to underpin relevant conservation decision making	Web-based list of research related to waterbirds and their conservation in each CP per triennium	National reports (<i>Pressures and responses – 7. Research and monitoring, question 27</i>)	CPs
Objective 4 To improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the need measures to conserve them and their habitats				
	4.1. Support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS) is secured	100% funding and other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and	Secretarial reports	CPs, other donors

⁵ Conservation Evidence is an online peer-reviewed journal and a web pool of previously published papers or reports that document the effectiveness of conservation management interventions.

	Targets (Targets to achieve by 2017)	Indicators (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	Means of Verification (Sources of information for indicators)	Main Actors
		resources), secured for the Communication Strategy implementation		
	4.2. The AEWA Communication Strategy is implemented	<p>The Communication Strategy has been monitored annually and reviewed and updated on a tri-annual basis</p> <p>At least one Training of Trainers workshop for CEPA has been held in each AEWA region (CS 3.1)⁶</p> <p>In at least three AEWA regions, follow-up trainings for CEPA at the national level are conducted by the people trained under target 3.3 (CS 3.2)</p> <p>Regional Centres for the exchange of information on AEWA have been established in all regions (CS 2.2)</p> <p>The AEWA website has been improved and maintained, and in particular made more</p>	<p>Implementation progress reports The strategy document</p> <p>Training workshop report Training toolkit/manual</p> <p>National reports (<i>Pressures and responses – 8. Education and information, 8.1. AEWA Communication Strategy, question 32</i>) Training workshop reports Training toolkit/manual</p> <p>Centre launch events Assessment reports</p> <p>The web site Users feedback</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>CPs</p> <p>Secretariat, CPs</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p>

⁶ Between brackets and where appropriate, the targets are linked to the Communication Strategy (CS), the number given reflects the activity in the Communication Strategy

	Targets (Targets to achieve by 2017)	Indicators (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	Means of Verification (Sources of information for indicators)	Main Actors
		<p>interactive (CS 4.1)</p> <p>The AEWA newsletter is being published regularly, and twice yearly in hard copy supported by monthly electronic updates (CS 4.2)</p> <p>The infrastructure for e-discussions is in place and the discussions facilitated (CS 4.3)</p> <p>Guidelines for Accession have been updated and distributed to all non-CPs (CS 4.4)</p> <p>A flexible toolkit is produced, and distributed, providing a set of resource materials for awareness raising at the national level (CS 4.5)</p>	<p>The newsletters (paper version and e-news) Secretarial report</p> <p>The e-forum Secretarial reports</p> <p>The guidelines Distribution list Secretarial report</p> <p>The toolkit Distribution list Secretarial report</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p>
	4.3. Awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general and of AEWA in particular are increased at all levels within the CPs	At least 25% of CPs have developed and are implementing programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA	National reports (<i>Pressures and responses – 8. Education and information, 8.1. AEWA Communication Strategy, question 29</i>)	CPs
Objective 5				
To improve the capacity of Range States and international cooperation and capacity towards the				

	Targets <i>(Targets to achieve by 2017)</i>	Indicators <i>(Quantifiable measures of achievement)</i>	Means of Verification <i>(Sources of information for indicators)</i>	Main Actors
conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways				
	5.1. The membership of the Agreement is expanded	AEWA Membership has increased to 75 Parties by MOP5, to 85 Parties by MOP6, and to 90 Parties by MOP 7, with particular focus on Central Asia and the Middle East	Depositary report	Secretariat, CPs
	5.2. Sufficient funding for the implementation of the SP is raised from different sources	Full funding	Secretarial report	CPs Other donors
	5.3. Cooperation with other MEAs and key partners is enhanced	At least 5 new MoU/MoC between AEWA and other MEA's and key partners	MoU/MoC	Secretariat
	5.4. The Small Grants Fund (SGF) is activated	At least 100,000 EUR annually disbursed to developing countries for implementation of AEWA	SGF reports Secretarial reports	CPs, Secretariat
	5.5. The rate of submission of National Reports is increased	All Contracting Parties regularly provide complete national reports	National report synthesis	CPs
	5.6. Capacity of national staff to implement the Agreement is increased through proper training mechanisms	At least 30 governmental staff have been trained in at least 20 countries	Training reports	Secretariat
	5.7. Appropriate national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA linking to national coordination mechanisms for other	In at least 50% of the Contracting Parties AEWA national coordination mechanisms have been established and are operational	National reports <i>(Pressures and responses – 9. Implementation, question 36)</i>	CPs

	Targets <i>(Targets to achieve by 2017)</i>	Indicators <i>(Quantifiable measures of achievement)</i>	Means of Verification <i>(Sources of information for indicators)</i>	Main Actors
	biodiversity MEAs are established	on regular basis		
	5.8. AEWA is recognized by other biodiversity MEAs as an MEA whose effectiveness in protecting waterbirds can be used as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level	All global biodiversity MEAs are referring to the effectiveness of AEWA as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level	Secretarial reports of other biodiversity MEAs Other biodiversity MEAs' resolutions	AEWA and other biodiversity MEAs

Definitions

Column A species/populations

Waterbird species, whose populations are listed on Column A of Table 1 of Annex 3 to AEWA

Column B species/populations

Waterbird species, whose populations are listed on Column B of Table 1 of Annex 3 to AEWA

Column C species/populations

Waterbird species, whose populations are listed on Column C of Table 1 of Annex 3 to AEWA

Favourable Conservation Status

As described in Article 1 of the CMS:

"Conservation status" will be taken as "favourable" when:

- (1) population dynamics data indicate that the migratory species is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its ecosystems;
- (2) the range of the migratory species is neither currently being reduced, nor is likely to be reduced, on a long-term basis;
- (3) there is, and will be in the foreseeable future sufficient habitat to maintain the population of the migratory species on a long-term basis; and
- (4) the distribution and abundance of the migratory species approach historic coverage and levels to the extent that potentially suitable ecosystems exist and to the extent consistent with wise wildlife management;"

Flyway

Waterbird flyways are biological systems of migration paths that directly link sites and ecosystems in different countries and continents on which populations of migratory waterbird species depend.

Unsustainable use

Any use, which alone or in combination with others, leads or has the potential to lead to a species/population not being able to maintain its favourable conservation status.

List of acronyms

AEWA – Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA – Communication, Education and Public Awareness
CMS – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP – Conference of the Parties
CP – Contracting Party
CS – Communication Strategy
CSR – Conservation Status Review
GISP – Global Invasive Species Programme
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment
IHMP – International Harvest Management Plan (for quarry populations/species)
IUCN – The World Conservation Union
IWC – International Waterfowl Census
MEA – Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MoC – Memorandum of Cooperation
MOP – Meeting of the Parties
MoU – Memorandum of Understanding
SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment
SGF – Small Grants Fund
SSAP – Single Species Action Plan
StC – Standing Committee
TC – Technical Committee