



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS



5th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
14 – 18 May 2012, La Rochelle, France

“Migratory waterbirds and people - sharing wetlands”

RESOLUTION 5.1

NATIONAL REPORTING AND ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

Recalling Resolution 1.3 on establishment of a triennial national report format,

Noting that the 6th Meeting of the Technical Committee recommended the development of an online reporting facility as a tool for better harmonisation of the AEWA reporting templates,

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 harmonisation of reporting with other international biodiversity agreements, and to submit it for approval to MOP4,

Recalling Resolution 4.7, which adopted and approved the use of the online national report format for reporting by the Contracting Parties to future MOPs and urged Contracting Parties to utilise the online national reporting facility to 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,

Further recalling Resolution 4.7, which requested 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* would assist in the development of analytical and synthesis tools for information provided via the online national reporting facility and which requested the donor community to provide financial resources to enable the Secretariat to continue working in collaboration with UNEP and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to implement activities intended to strengthen the online format for national reporting,

Reaffirming that a versatile online national reporting facility would ease the reporting burden for the Contracting Parties and should therefore increase the rate of submission of national reports, as well as provide a basis for assessment and monitoring of national and international implementation and for identifying gaps,

Acknowledging the work carried out by the Secretariat, the Technical Committee and the UNEP-WCMC in both revising and enhancing the national report format for online application and in developing the Online Reporting System (ORS) in the context of the *UNEP DELC Knowledge Management Project*, which was the web-based electronic platform used for reporting to MOP5, while *also acknowledging* the ongoing work of the UNEP Initiative on *Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)* in facilitating the knowledge-sharing and collaboration on the topic of online national reporting amongst MEAs, including exploring technical options for common reporting and analytical tools for national reporting to MEAs,

Noting that 13 national reports (21% of due reports) were submitted to MOP5 using the ORS by the official deadline of 14 January 2012 and 30 were submitted after the official deadline, but by the cut-off date of 23 February 2012 for inclusion into the group of reports for analysis, and, that in total, 69 % of due

national reports were submitted in time through the ORS to be included in the analysis of national reports prepared by UNEP-WCMC as detailed in document AEWA/MOP 5.13,

Aware of the predominantly late submission of national reports in this, as well as in previous reporting cycles, which poses a challenge regarding the timely production and submission to the MOP of the analysis and summary of information provided by Contracting Parties through their national reports.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Congratulates* the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for developing the Online Reporting System (ORS) as a generic web-based electronic platform for online national reporting for MEAs under the UNEP-led “*Knowledge Management project for MEAs*”;
2. *Recognises* that the reporting process to the AEWA MOP5 was the first use of the Online Reporting System (ORS) developed by UNEP-WCMC and that further resources are needed to develop the analytical component of the system as well as to maintain the ORS and to provide training for national respondents for future reporting cycles;
3. *Recommends* that the use of the ORS as a tool for online national reporting is considered for adoption by the Secretariats of CMS, its other instruments and potentially other MEAs, in order to provide a strong basis for harmonisation and enable future cost-sharing, both in terms of the maintenance and further development of the ORS as well as with regard to training and capacity-building measures associated with online reporting amongst MEAs;
4. *Requests* UNEP to build on the successful outcomes of projects such as the “*Strengthening the Implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions through the Strategic Use of Information: Knowledge Management among MEAs*” with additional initiatives to support online national reporting, which would assist in the development of analytical and synthesis tools for information provided via the Online Reporting System (ORS);
5. *Further encourages* the donor community to 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, such as developing the analytical tool component of the ORS;
6. *Further requests* the Secretariat to seek to work with UNEP-WCMC to advance the further development of the ORS and to enhance the inter-operability of the ORS with systems used for national reporting of other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
7. *Instructs* the Secretariat to report progress on this activity to each meeting of the Standing Committee;
8. *Decides* that the deadline for submission of national reports by Contracting Parties to the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties shall be 180 days before the opening date of MOP6.