

RESOLUTION 2.2

PHASING OUT LEAD SHOT FOR HUNTING IN WETLANDS

Recalling paragraph 4.1.4 of the text of the Action Plan to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, stating that Parties shall endeavour to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands by the year 2000,

Recognizing that, as outlined in the initial guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds contained in document AEWA/MOP1.8, lead poisoning is an unacceptable waste of the waterbird resource,

Recalling Resolution 1.14 of the first Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement, requesting the Technical Committee to review the developments regarding the phasing out of lead shot and to make recommendations,

Noting that that review shows that implementation of paragraph 4.1.4 of the Action Plan is still highly insufficient in the majority of Range States,

Noting also that experiences of European countries which have phased out the use of lead shot are positive and that the use of alternative shot is proving satisfactory,

Concluding, however, from this review, as also outlined in the initial guidelines on emergency situations contained in document AEWA/MOP1.8, that the main impeding factor to compliance is a lack of information and communication, and that therefore raising public awareness of the dangers of toxic shot and the availability and affordability of alternatives are an important issue,

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

Convinced that further action is needed to improve the situation,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties to enhance their efforts to phase out the use of lead shot in wetlands as soon as possible, in accordance with the recommendations issued by the Technical Committee in its lead poisoning review – namely, to promote communication between, and awareness within, authorities and the hunting community; to allocate resources for the enforcement of relevant laws; and to stimulate and facilitate the production and availability of non-toxic shot - and to actively inform themselves on the issue and its solutions;
2. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties 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 specify how they plan to overcome any problems encountered;
3. *Urges* Contracting Parties which have already phased out the use of lead shot in wetlands, or which are in the process of doing so, actively to contribute their experiences to the international hunting community and to the Agreement Secretariat;

4. *Requests* the Agreement Secretariat to gather and disseminate knowledge and expertise at the international level by making information materials (such as articles in hunters' magazines and brochures) available to those countries which have shown a need of this, and furthermore by organizing additional theoretical and practical workshops for hunters in different regions as appropriate;
5. *Requests* the Agreement Secretariat to assist countries, especially developing countries and those in economic transition, to achieve the phasing out of lead shot;
6. *Invites* the European Commission, through the Sustainable Hunting Initiative, to allocate, in consultation with the Agreement Secretariat, financial support to carry out awareness-raising activities leading to the development and implementation of national legislation concerning the use of non-toxic shot;
7. *Invites* the international federations of hunting associations to encourage training and to distribute the necessary information to hunters;
8. *Encourages* all ammunition manufacturers actively to promote the use of non-toxic shot and to provide the appropriate information on its use;
9. *Requests* the Technical Committee 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, in consultation with hunting organizations, gun and ammunition manufacturers and traders, and to map the situation in all the Range States, and accordingly bring elaborate guidance to the Meeting of the Parties at its third session.