

RESOLUTION 2.3

CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

Recalling Resolution 1.10 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its first session, which took place in South Africa in 1999, regarding the initial guidelines in the sense of article IV of the Agreement, as guidance for the Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Agreement and its Action Plan;

Appreciating that the Technical Committee, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Resolution 1.10, has sought further input to the initial guidelines which, together with the comments received from the participants at the first Meeting of the Parties, have been taken into consideration during the revision of the guidelines,

Aware of Decision VI/23 of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species, including Guiding Principles on Invasive Alien Species,

Further recalling the international implementation priorities 2000-2004 as adopted by the first Meeting of the Parties, which contains, inter alia, proposals for drafting additional conservation guidelines on specific topics;

Convinced of the necessity that all Parties and Range States of the Agreement shall implement the Agreement in a similar and coherent way,

Noting that these conservation guidelines provide a common framework for action but have no legally binding effect,

The Meeting of Parties:

1. *Takes note of* the conservation guidelines on national legislation for migratory waterbirds as contained in AEWA/MOP2.12 and of the conservation guideline on avoidance of introductions of non-native migratory waterbird species as contained in AEWA/MOP2.13, in the sense of article IV of the Agreement, and accepts them as interim guidance for Contracting Parties in the implementation of its Action Plan;
2. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties to utilize the interim guidelines in a practical way that leads to a minimum of additional bureaucracy and that recognizes the different social, economic and environmental conditions within the Agreement area;
3. *Urges* the bilateral and multilateral donor agencies involved directly or indirectly in waterbird conservation, to take into consideration document AEWA/MOP2.12 and AEWA/MOP2.13 and the priorities for action at national and international level identified therein;
4. *Invites* multilateral environmental agreements, for example, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, to take note of the interim guidelines as a basis for the development of guidelines related to the control of non-native waterbirds at the global level;

5. *Instructs* the Secretariat and the Technical Committee, within available resources and in consultation with Parties and appropriate organizations, to review all the existing AEWA guidelines regularly, in particular taking account of the additional comments provided by participants to the Meeting of the Parties;

6. *Further instructs* the Secretariat to disseminate the interim conservation guidelines (AEWA/MOP2.12 and AEWA/ MOP2.13) widely and to monitor if the interim guidelines are being used to implement the Agreement.