



7th MEETING OF THE AEWA STANDING COMMITTEE
26 – 27 November 2011, Bergen, Norway

NEW ARABIC VERSION OF THE AGREEMENT TEXT

Introduction:

In the past, the Secretariat has received comments from Arabic speaking countries questioning the linguistic quality of the current official Arabic version of the Agreement text and its annexes. The AEWA Secretariat therefore decided to commission a new translation in the frame of the AEWA project on “Strengthening waterbird and wetland conservation capacities in North Africa (WetCap)” in 2009. The new translation is hoped to provide Arabic speaking countries with an improved, high quality translation, thereby enhancing cooperation with and among the countries concerned.

The new translation is based on the current version of the Agreement text and Action Plan as adopted at the 4th session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP4) in 2008 in Madagascar. It has recently been circulated among Arabic speaking Parties to AEWA for comments. On the basis of this consultation process, it is planned to submit the final draft to the 5th Meeting of the Parties (MOP5) to AEWA which will take place from 14 - 18 May 2012 in La Rochelle, France. MOP5 will be requested to adopt the text as the new official version, replacing the current official text, which can be found at:

http://www.unep-aewa.org/documents/agreement_text/agree_main.htm

Action requested from the Standing Committee:

The Standing Committee is requested to take note of the fact that a new Arabic version of the AEWA text has been produced and to endorse its submission by the Secretariat to the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP5).