



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

DRAFT RESOLUTION 5.XX

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WINGS OVER WETLANDS (WOW) UNEP-GEF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN FLYWAYS PROJECT AND POST-WOW PROSPECTS**

Recalling Resolution 2.4, in which Contracting Parties expressed their appreciation for the support provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) towards the development of a project proposal for “*Enhancing Conservation of the Critical Network of Wetlands Required by Migratory Waterbirds on the African-Eurasian Flyways*”,

Further recalling Resolutions 3.11 and 4.10 which urged Contracting Parties, the Agreement Secretariat and specialized international organizations to provide matching funds to the *Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project* (hereafter referred to as the *WOW Project*) as well as to give highest priority for funding to those International Implementation Task (IIT) activities and projects specifically linked to the *WOW Project*,

Noting with appreciation previous decisions related to flyway conservation of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), most notably CMS Resolution 9.2, which set up a Working Group on Flyways [and CMS Resolution 10.10, which acknowledged the *WOW Project* as the largest initiative to date in the African-Eurasian region for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, and which urges CMS Parties to foster trans-boundary collaboration within flyway networks and to support the further development of the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool into a global tool],

Noting the previous decisions of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands relating to flyway conservation, in particular Resolution X.22, which welcomed the *WOW Project*, including the demonstration projects, capacity-building activities and the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool,

Recalling the priorities for waterbird conservation highlighted in 2004 at the “Waterbirds around the World” international conference and its concluding statement, the *Edinburgh Declaration*, which strongly encourages countries to make use of available resources including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in order to finance action required under the *Declaration*,

Taking note of “The Hague Action Statement” issued on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of AEWA in June 2010, in which participants acknowledged the innovative tools developed by the *WOW Project* to assist in the implementation of AEWA and in which participants urged the GEF to continue to support international flyway-scale projects in the future,

Further taking note of the report of the Global Flyway Initiatives Workshop in Seosan (Republic of Korea) on 17-20 October 2011, in which....**[To be filled in upon availability of the GFW report]**,

Noting with satisfaction that the *WOW Project* was one of the top twenty projects selected by UNEP in 2011 to showcase twenty years of its engagement in the GEF, and that the *WOW Project's* Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool won the first prize of the ESRI/SCGIS International Conservation Mapping Competition in the category “Best Interactive Web Map” in June 2011,

Welcoming the commitment of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the AEWA Secretariat, BirdLife International and Wetlands International to consolidate and progress a programmatic partnership based on the *WOW Project*, for flyway-scale conservation of migratory waterbirds and the wise use of wetlands as outlined in the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on the “*Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats (Wings Over Wetlands)*”, signed by all partners during the 15th Anniversary of AEWA in The Hague on 14 June 2010.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the results of the multi-partner *WOW Project*, most notably the development of the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool, the Flyway Training Kit (FTK) and the numerous national and site-level achievements through Demonstration Projects;
2. *Congratulates* the main *WOW Project* partners, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP, Wetlands International, BirdLife International, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and a range of other local partners in Africa and Eurasia for the successful implementation of the *WOW Project*;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the many donors at the international, national and local level for their generous support to the *WOW Project*, most notably GEF and the Government of Germany, but also the European Union and the Governments of Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland and others who provided matching funding to the *WOW Project* through the Agreement Secretariat, as well as the significant co-financing provided by the individual *WOW* Partners and the *WOW* Demonstration Project countries: Estonia, the Gambia, Hungary, Lithuania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen;
4. *Further expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Germany for providing a Junior Professional Officer to support the implementation of the *WOW Project*;
5. *Urges* Contracting Parties to make greater use of the *WOW Project's* outputs, in particular the CSN Tool and the Flyway Training Kit to support migratory waterbird conservation, training and capacity building efforts across the African-Eurasian region, and to communicate any specific needs in relation to the use of these products to the Secretariat;
6. *Invites* relevant Regional Institutions and Forums such as [to be identified by Contracting Parties], to consider making use of the CSN as a means of integrating flyway-scale waterbird conservation with regional-level planning and decision making;
7. *Strongly urges* GEF to recognize the importance of flyway-scale initiatives such as the *WOW Project*, and to strive to fund and support new international flyway-scale initiatives both within and beyond the AEWA region;
8. *Urges* Contracting Parties, donors and private sector sponsors to provide financial support to enable the development and implementation of new flyway-scale projects and initiatives, which would build on the tools and outcomes of the *WOW Project*;
9. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat to participate actively in the “*Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats (Wings Over Wetlands)*”, working with its partners to continue to advance, promote the use and further develop the main tools developed in the context of the *WOW*

Project, and *invites* the Partnership to elaborate a joint work plan to support the implementation of its own objectives and the related resolutions of the MOP;

10. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat to report progress on this activity to each meeting of the Standing Committee.