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**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WESTERN
AFRICA & CENTRAL AFRICA REGION**

Submitted by Nana Kofi Adu-Nsiah, AEWA National Focal Point for Ghana, Member of the AEWA Standing Committee and Regional Representative for the Western Africa and Central Africa Region

AEWA REGIONAL REPORT – WESTERN AFRICA & CENTRAL AFRICA

1. Number of Contracting Parties (CPs) / Range States (RS) in the sub-region

CPs: 16 RS: 26

Number of New Accessions since previous StC: Two (2) - Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire. The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire acceded to the Agreement effective 1 June 2013. Burkina Faso will officially become a Party to AEWA on 1 October 2013. The accession of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso brings the number of AEWA Contracting Parties in the Western and Central Africa sub-region to 16. Ten (10) more countries are yet to accede to the AEWA.

2. Feedback from CPs and Range States for this report:

CPs: None RS: None

3. To some extent the Regional Rep. has been promoting the Agreement by calling for information regarding the AEWA implementation for the purpose of preparatory reports to the StC Meetings. Unfortunately, the responses have always not been encouraging.
4. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD): Ghana and Nigeria reported organizing various activities to mark the WMBD 2013. It is encouraging to note that all the some non-contracting parties in the sub-region have been participating in the celebration of WMBD. They are Cape Verde (2012), Liberia (2012, 2013), Mauritania (2012, 2013) and Sierra Leone (2012).
5. The Government of Ghana (through the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission) hosted the 11th Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee from 27 - 30 August 2012 in Accra. The TC Meeting was followed with Workshop on Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region from August 31st – September 2nd 2012.

6. Key challenges

The Region faces key challenge of Anglophone – Francophone language barrier that limits effective communication and information sharing among member states.

7. Any other relevant information

A) Ghana has issued a book: “**Birds of Ghana**” in 2011, covering 758 species, including residents, migrants and vagrants. Each species has a map, an illustration, a description of male, females and juveniles, habitat and call. The guide is not only useful for tourism but also for birds study in Ghana and neighbouring AEWA Range States.

B) Status of implementation of the AEWA SGF to Ghana funded under the 2011 cycle

Project title: Priority setting and conservation of migratory waterbird species at key coastal wetland sites in Ghana.

Background and objectives:

The Centre for African Wetlands received grant funding of Euros 21,699 from the AEWA Small Grants Fund under the 2011 cycle to implement the project, *Priority setting and conservation of migratory waterbird species at key coastal wetland sites in Ghana*. The aim of the project is to analyze the waterbird count data collected over a 20-year period, and based on the results, re-define key wetland sites in Ghana and advocate for their protection. The project has three main objectives:

- To analyze the long-term (20+ years) waterbird counts in Ghana and Sanderling demographic data for better understanding of trends in waterbird species populations;
- To review the importance of Ghana's coastal wetlands for waterbirds with a view to identifying additional wetlands requiring protection to secure long-term survival of key species;
- To advocate for enhanced management of designated Ramsar sites and protection of additional key sites

The project objectives clearly contribute to the implementation of AEWA's Strategic Plan, in particularly delivery towards targets under Objective 3 of the plan "*To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them as a basis for conservation action*"

The key activities to be delivered under the project with the AEWA funds include:

- Completion of entry of the count data and establishment of a database
- Additional field work for data collection on Sanderling survival as well as feeding ecology studies
- Training of key personnel in techniques for analyzing long-term population counts and survival
- Preparation of a policy document on the current status of coastal wetlands in Ghana, and organization of information workshops targeting key people from local and national

Progress on implementation

Implementation of the project started in January 2013 (the original start date of September 2012 had to be shifted because of the time it took for completion of the contractual arrangements) and is expected to be completed within a fifteen month period.

Implementation of the project is on track. The data entry is progressing satisfactorily and is expected to be completed before the end of the year. The data analysis and preparation of both the policy documents and scientific manuscripts are expected to start late this year.

**NANA KOFI ADU-NSIAH
GHANA**

**Annex 1: WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN AEWA CONTRACTING PARTIES AS @
AUGUST 2013**

NO.	CONTRACTING PARTIES	DATE
	WESTERN AFRICA	
1	Benin	01-01-2000
2	Burkina Faso	01-10-2013
3	Côte d'Ivoire	01-06-2013
4	Gambia	01-11-1999
5	Ghana	01-10-2005
6	Guinea	01-11-1999
7	Guinea-Bissau	01-11-2006
8	Mali	01-01-2000
9	Niger	01-11-1999
10	Nigeria	01-07-2004
11	Senegal	01-11-1999
12	Togo	01-11-1999
	Central African	
13	Chad	01-11-2011
14	Congo (Brazzaville)	01-11-1999
15	Equatorial Guinea	01-01-2003
16	Gabon	01-12-2012
No	NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES	
	WESTERN AFRICA	
1	Cape Verde	-
2	Liberia	-
3	Sierra Leone	-
4	Mauritania	-
	CENTRAL AFRICA	
5	Angola	-
6	Cameroon	-
7	Central African Republic	-
8	Democratic Republic of Congo	-
9	Sao Tome & Principe	-
10	South Sudan	-