

## PREPARATORY MEETING TO PLAN THE AEWA MOP5 IN 2012

MEEDDM, La Défense, 22 April 2010

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### *In attendance:*

- Bert Lenten, Executive Secretary, AEWA
- Jean-Yves Mondain Monval, Technical Advisor AEWA France, ONCFS
- Michel Metais, LPO
- Guillaume Rousset, ONCFS/DER
- Dominique Gamon, ONCFS
- Alexandre Czajkowski, OMPO
- Dominique Py, FNE
- Laetitia Anstett, FNC
- Corinne Chaumeil, MEEDDM/DICOM
- Marianne Courouble, MEEDDM/DEB

### *Absent and excused:*

- Patrick Triplet, *Baie de Somme* natural reserve
- Mireille Celdran, MEEDDM/DEB
- ANCGE
- La Tour du Valat

### *Purpose of the meeting:*

In May 2012, France will be hosting and organizing 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MOP5) to AEWA, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, developed under the aegis of the Bonn Convention on migratory species (also known as CMS).

Subject to confirmation, the event should take place in La Rochelle in the third week of May. This Meeting of the Parties, to be held in France for the first time, will be an opportunity to highlight French efforts in the sustainable conservation and management of waterbirds and their habitats on French territory and beyond.

The purpose of this preparatory meeting was to establish what is expected of France, and thus of the organizing committee, in terms of preparing and organizing the MoP5, and to allow the potential members of the organizing committee to exchange their views in person with the AEWA executive secretary who attended the meeting.

### *Discussion and conclusion:*

**1. Brief presentation of AEWA** by Bert Lenten; how it functions, its bodies, including the Meeting of the Parties. AEWA was initiated in 1995 and now numbers 63 Contracting Parties. Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties take place every four years. It is governing body of the Agreement. The last session took place in Madagascar in October 2008.

### **2. MoP5 programme:**

The Meeting of the Parties takes place over 5 days, with the following programme:

Day 2: reception of participants + training workshop for delegates from French-speaking Africa

Day 1: reception of participants + community coordination meeting + training workshop for delegates from French-speaking Africa

**Day 1:** opening ceremony + plenary session + reception/dinner offered by France

**Day 2:** plenary session and 2 working parties

**Day 3:** plenary session and 2 working parties

**Day 4:** excursion for delegates + finalization of documents by the Secretariat

**Day 5:** plenary session + closing ceremony

Days 6 and 7: optional excursions after the MoP

The Region can organize side events open to the public before and during the MoP5. The World Migratory Bird Day, which is celebrated annually at this time of year, could be linked to the event, more particularly with regard to communication aimed at the general public. The Region/La Rochelle Council could also hold a reception for delegates on the evening of Day 2 if it so wishes.

The training workshop for delegates from French-speaking Africa will be organized and funded by the AEWASecretariat (this has been confirmed by Bert Lenten), on the weekend before the MoP. A workshop for English-speaking delegates was organized just before the 2008 MoP4.

The two working parties on Days 2 and 3 will respectively work on technical matters and on the administrative/financial items on the agenda.

Side events could be organized by the host country, in consultation with the Secretariat, during the lunch break and after sessions at the end of the day.

The excursion day (Day 4) will be organized and funded by the host country. Delegates should be offered a choice of 4 free excursions.

The optional one or two-day excursions after the Conference will be organized by the host country but paid for by the delegates.

### **3. Dates and venue of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MoP5):**

Subject to confirmation by the authorities involved and the availability of venues, the MoP5 will be held in La Rochelle from 14 to 18 May 2012. The town has all the necessary transport services and infrastructure for visitors (hotels and convention centre) and is surrounded by numerous natural reserves and wetlands of interest for the excursions.

### **4. Organizing committee membership:**

The participants in the meeting at MEEDDM have all agreed that the organizations they respectively represent will sit on the MoP5 organizing committee. These organizations include:

- AEWASecretariat
- MEEDDM, DEB and DICOM
- ONCFS
- LPO
- OMPO
- FNE
- FNC

To which should be added the *Tour du Valat*, the La Rochelle Town Council and *DIREN Loire Atlantique*.

#### **5. Logistics requirements:**

Corinne Chaumeil from the MEEDDM Communication department explained that MEEDDM would commission an outside service provider to organize the logistics, as is customary for international conferences.

#### **Convention centre facilities:**

According to the information provided by the Secretariat, the convention centre should include:

- 1 plenary session hall seating 200-250 participants
- With a rostrum large enough to accommodate 6 people
- 2 rooms for the working parties accommodating 100 people
- 1 room for the community coordination meetings accommodating 50 people
- 7 small rooms/offices for the AEWA Secretariat with computer, telephone, Internet, etc.
- 1 room for delegates with 10 computers and 2 printers
- 1 office with 2 computers/telephone, Internet connection and printer for the EU presidency
- 1 room for photocopies with 4 large standard printers
- 1 documentation room for the delegates
- A hall area for delegate registration
- A hall area for delegate exhibitions/registration

#### **Logo and banner:**

France should design the logo for the MoP5 in consultation with the Secretariat. The MEEDDM DICOM will submit proposals in consultation with the organizing committee. France should also prepare the banner for the MoP5 with a slogan yet to be defined (see the theme of the MoP5 further on), also in consultation with the Secretariat.

#### **Hotel/visa/per diem/local transport:**

MEEDDM should make provision for and reserve enough hotel rooms for all the participants, including the Secretariat staff, whose accommodation should be in the immediate vicinity of the conference centre.

France should facilitate visa application procedures for delegates and ensure that all participants are issued with visas.

France should also facilitate local transport for delegates (reception desk at the airport/station, shuttle service etc.)

MEEDDM should bear the cost of travel and *per diem* allowances for 10 members of AEWA Secretariat staff (under United Nations rules).

#### **Reception and security staff:**

France should plan to hire 10 hostesses to hand out documents and assist delegates, 4 secretaries/trainees for photocopies, the requisite security personnel and technicians round the clock for the duration of the conference.

#### **Media and press coverage:**

France should deal with national media contacts, whereas the Secretariat will deal with international coverage of the event.

### **6. UNEP/French government agreement**

An agreement should be signed by UNEP and the French government in 2011 to cover delegates' immunity and privileges during the conference. Check with MAEE whether or not this requires national legislation and attendant ratification.

### **7. Chairmanship of the MoP5.**

France will chair the sessions of the MoP5 for the duration thereof. A political figure familiar with the issue of migratory waterbird conservation should be designated.

### **8. Themes of the MoP5 and publication**

MEEDDM suggests that the topics of the MoP5 be organized around a central theme, namely the contribution of the French parties concerned (conservationists, administrators, hunters, etc.) to a common cause, the conservation of migratory waterbirds, their habitat and flyways. Communication about the event could underscore the respective efforts of each interest group towards this common goal and more particularly show that consultation is sometimes possible with that in mind. All participants are invited to make known their suggestions before the next organizing committee meeting.

Specific themes could be treated in the side events organized during the meeting, such as the conclusions of the hunting panel and the FACE-BirdLife agreement. LPO suggests that the MoP5 be an opportunity to take stock of conservation of all migratory waterbird species covered by AEWA.

Participants in the meeting agree to draft a common bilingual (French-English) publication specially for the MoP5, which all French participants could contribute to and thereby announce the programmes, measures and activities they have conducted in aid of AEWA's objectives. This brochure will be a tremendous communication and awareness-raising tool, in particular for the MoP participants, to highlight France's initiatives and approach to conservation.

France, following the example of any contracting party, will also propose certain subjects for inclusion on the meeting's agenda. France could also submit draft resolutions for consideration of the Parties to the MoP5. To that end, it should submit draft resolutions for consideration by the standing committee meeting preceding the MoP5, usually 6 months beforehand. MEEDDM invites participants in the organizing committee meeting to think about the contents of these resolutions or points on the possible agenda. MEEDDM will keep organizing committee members duly informed of the deadlines for filing proposals.

### **9. Other points of discussion**

#### **Observers:**

Any governmental or non-governmental organization, scientific institution, etc. working in spheres covered by AEWA may attend the MoP5 as observers. To that end they should advise the Secretariat of their intention to attend so that they can be included in the list of participants. Observers attend and take part in meetings but have no voting rights.

#### **Next organizing committee meeting:**

By common consent, the next meeting of the organizing committee is scheduled for 7 September 2010, subject to subsequent modification.

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