

**Joint Work Plan 2003-2005  
between**

**the Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) and the  
Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of  
Wild Animals (CMS)  
and between**

**the Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands and the Secretariat of the  
Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds  
(AEWA)**

prepared by the Ramsar Convention Bureau and the CMS and AEWA Secretariats

## **Introduction**

1. This Joint Work Plan has been developed in implementation of Action 7.2.5 of Ramsar's Strategic Plan 1997-2002: "Enhance Ramsar's contribution to international conservation on shared wetland species, notably through cooperative arrangements with the Convention on Migratory Species, flyway agreements, networks and other mechanisms dealing with migratory species (Recommendation 6.4)", as well as Action 4.4 of the CMS Strategic Plan 2000-2005: "To strengthen orderly linkages with partner organizations and, in particular, to define jointly... the scope of their responsibility and the ways to improve, in the most efficient way, their tasks and to enhance their synergetic effect." It is also developed in line with the recommendations of the 10th meeting of the Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species (Edinburgh, May 2001). Elaboration of this Joint Work Plan has been welcomed by CMS COP7 (Bonn, September 2002) and the draft plan was welcomed and endorsed by Ramsar COP8 (Valencia, November 2002)
2. The Joint Work Plan is designed to operationalise the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species, which identified five 'Areas of cooperation' which concern joint promotion; institutional cooperation; joint conservation action; data collection, storage and analysis; and new Agreements on migratory species including those with unfavourable conservation status. The Joint Work Plan takes into account developments in both Conventions and the AEWA since the conclusion of the MoU.
3. The Joint Work Plan has been developed in recognition that there is mutual interest to the Parties of the Ramsar Convention, and the Parties and Range States of CMS and Agreements developed under its aegis, particularly in:
  - i) the identification, development, conservation, and sustainable use of networks of key sites for migratory species;

- ii) the promotion of international cooperation among countries within the migratory ranges of such species, which is essential for the successful safeguard of species dependent on networks of often dispersed ecosystems throughout the world; and
  - iii) ensuring that the best possible information and data is shared between all those responsible for the implementation of the conventions and agreements in support of the conservation and sustainable use of migratory wetland-dependent species.
4. The Joint Work Plan also recognises the relevance of joint action on migratory species through other environment-related global and regional conventions and the development of other bilateral joint plans and programmes, notably the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)-Ramsar 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Work Plan (2002-2006), which includes joint actions in cooperation with the CMS, and the CBD-CMS Joint Work Programme (2002-2005), both of which have been approved by Decision VI.20 of CBD's COP6 (Den Haag, Netherlands, April 2002).
5. The Plan recognises the major contribution to the development of appropriate intergovernmental instruments under the auspices of CMS of Ramsar's mechanism of the designation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) for the establishment of site networks for migratory waterbirds (specifically through the application of Ramsar Criteria 5 and 6) and through other Ramsar designation criteria including Criterion 2 concerning globally and nationally threatened species, Criteria 7 and 8 concerning fish, including migratory fish, and Criterion 4 concerning the sites used by species at critical stages of their life-cycles.
6. The Plan further recognises that the CMS's Concerted Actions for species listed in Appendix I of the Convention (Endangered Migratory Species), and Cooperative Actions developed for species listed in Appendix II of the Convention (Migratory species which have an unfavourable conservation status and which require international agreements for their conservation and management) can, through full involvement of CMS and Ramsar Contracting Parties, be used as the basis for the conservation and wise use of migratory wetland-dependent species which are endangered and/or of conservation concern.
7. The actions set out in this first Joint Work Plan are designed to be implemented during the period 2003 to 2005. The Actions will be kept under regular review by the Ramsar Bureau and the CMS and AEWA Secretariats and will be revised and updated in the light of the decisions of the Conferences and Meetings of Parties to the Conventions and Agreement. In the first instance the plan will be reviewed by the Ramsar Bureau and CMS and AEWA Secretariats in early 2004. At that time, the CMS and AEWA Secretariats and Ramsar Bureau will develop an implementation plan which will identify priority actions, timeframes, targets and specific outputs and outcomes.
8. The actions of this first Joint Work Plan focus on global scale collaboration between Convention secretariats in the development of mechanisms and collaborative processes, including the provision of coordinated national implementation guidance to Contracting Parties to the Conventions, which in turn will provide support for the implementation of the CBD; and on cooperation on the implementation of the CMS African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and its potential extension to cover Central Asian waterbird flyways. This is in recognition that this Agreement may provide a model

for similar collaborative international actions and Agreements in other regions and on other taxa of migratory wetland-dependent species.

9. It is anticipated that subsequent phases of joint work will focus more on implementation by Contracting Parties and Range States at the national and international levels.
10. The Plan also recognises the potential for developing closer collaboration on other existing Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding concluded under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species, concerning migratory species dependent on coastal/marine and inland wetlands, including *inter alia*:
  - Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS);
  - Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea;
  - Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS);
  - Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (not yet in force);
  - Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa;
  - Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia;
  - Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew;
  - Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane; and
  - Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler.
11. The Plan also recognises the important role provided by two international non-governmental organizations, BirdLife International and Wetlands International, in providing long-term scientific, technical and policy advice and support for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, CMS, AEWA and some other CMS-related Agreements and MoU. Both organizations are official International Organization Partners of the Ramsar Convention, and are amongst the small number of organisations invited to permanently participate in, and contribute to, meetings of CMS bodies.
12. BirdLife International has a long history of input to policy development in Ramsar, CMS and AEWA, in pioneering aspects of global guidance as well as elaboration of national policy and legislative frameworks in individual countries. Programmes and projects at local level include scientific research, conservation management of key sites and ecosystems, education and community participation initiatives. More widely, campaign activities promote public awareness of a range of bird and biodiversity conservation issues. BirdLife International provides support and assistance to the Conventions and the Agreement at all levels, including their governing and technical advisory bodies, regional initiatives and national implementation by Parties. In particular, BirdLife collects and synthesizes a variety of data resources which offer significant contributions to the implementation of the Joint Work Plan. These include inventories of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and the World Bird Database concerning the status and distribution of birds worldwide. Much of this is now accessible through the Web site ([www.birdlife.net](http://www.birdlife.net)). BirdLife is also currently developing integrated monitoring and biodiversity indicators in three categories: IBAs, threatened bird

species and common bird species. Convention/Agreement-related processes will be amongst the end-users of this work.

13. Wetlands International provides support on a range of key issues for the Conventions and Agreement and provides technical advice as a permanent member of the AEWA Technical Committee, particularly in the fields of inventory, assessment and monitoring, and training and capacity building at local, national and international scales. Of particular significance to this Joint Work Plan is Wetlands International's "International Waterbird Census (IWC)" and the information products prepared through it concerning migratory waterbirds. These include identification of key sites for waterbirds, the regularly-produced global "Waterbird Population Estimates" (3<sup>rd</sup> edition published in 2002), which provides population sizes and 1% thresholds that form the basis for identifying Ramsar's Wetlands of International Importance under Criterion 6, and more detailed status and trend reports on waterbird populations. Much of this material is now accessible through the Wetlands International Web site ([www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org)).
14. The actions in this first Joint Work Plan do not represent new areas of work for the Conventions and Agreement: rather they address cooperation on existing areas of work so as to enhance their implementation.
15. The actions of the first Joint Work Plan set out below are organized under the five main headings of the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of the Ramsar Convention and the Secretariat of CMS. In recognition that, since it entered into force, the AEWA operates as a separate Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) with its own secretariat, actions between the Ramsar Convention and CMS, and between Ramsar and AEWA, are listed separately under each main heading.
16. It is recognised that for certain actions in this plan to be implemented fully, additional resources may be needed. As appropriate, the Ramsar Bureau and CMS and AEWA Secretariats will jointly seek such resources.

#### **A. Joint promotion of the benefits to countries of participation in the Ramsar Convention and CMS; and, in Africa and Eurasia, AEWA**

##### **Actions to be taken:**

###### **Ramsar/CMS**

The Ramsar Bureau and CMS Secretariat will:

- A.1 Recognising that furthering progress towards full country membership of Ramsar and CMS is an important aspect of assisting countries in securing the conservation and sustainable use of their wetlands and the migratory species dependent upon them, promote to respective Contracting Parties the complementarity of the two conventions and encourage accession to each instrument by non-Parties, including during missions, through presentations at global and regional meetings of their respective Parties, and through the distribution of information materials, including wide circulation of this Joint Work Plan.

- A.2 In support of A.1, jointly prepare an information note or brochure explaining the complementarity of the two conventions and the opportunities for synergy in their implementation, including the use of each instrument's tools and mechanisms and in harmonisation and complementarity in national reporting; circulate this note to all respective Parties; and encourage Parties to develop collaborative mechanisms and actions at the national level, including participation in National Ramsar and CMS Committees or their equivalent, where these have been established.
- A.3 Seek to hold joint regional/subregional meetings of CMS and Ramsar Contracting Parties with the purpose of increasing awareness of complementarities and developing priorities for collaborative activities in common issues on national and regional/subregional scales.

#### **Ramsar/AEWA**

The Ramsar Bureau and AEWA Secretariat will:

- A.4 Recognising that furthering progress towards full country membership of Ramsar and AEWA is an important aspect of assisting countries in securing the conservation and sustainable use of their wetlands and the migratory waterbird species dependent upon them, promote to respective Contracting Parties in the Africa/Eurasia region the complementarity of the two instruments and encourage accession to each instrument by non-Parties, including during missions, through presentations at regional meetings of their respective Parties, and through the distribution of information materials, including wide circulation of this Joint Work Plan.
- A.5 In support of A.4, jointly prepare an information note or brochure explaining the complementarity of the Ramsar Convention and AEWA and the opportunities for synergy in their implementation, including the use of each instrument's tools and mechanisms; circulate this brochure to all respective Parties; and encourage Parties to develop collaborative mechanisms and actions at the national level, including participation in National Ramsar Committees or their equivalent, where these have been established. The brochure could also consider synergies of the Ramsar Convention with CMS beyond the Geographic Scope of AEWA and the role of key partners such as Wetlands International and BirdLife International.
- A.6 Seek to hold joint regional/subregional meetings of AEWA Range States and Ramsar Contracting Parties with the purpose of increasing awareness of complementarities and developing priorities for collaborative activities in common issues on national and regional/subregional scales.

### **B. Cooperation between secretariats, scientific and technical, and other bodies**

**Actions to be taken:**

#### **Ramsar/CMS**

The Ramsar Bureau and CMS Secretariat will:

- B.1 Maintain regular contact between relevant staff on matters of common interest, including holding an annual meeting (as appropriate, jointly between Ramsar, CMS and AEWA) to review progress on this Joint Work Plan and to agree amendment or updating of the Plan as necessary.
- B.2 Ensure (Ramsar Bureau) that the CMS Secretariat and Chair of the CMS Scientific Committee are approved for observer status on Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), and participate, as appropriate, in any Expert Working Groups established by the STRP.
- B.3 Facilitate contact between the Chair of Ramsar's STRP and the Chair of the CMS Scientific Council in order to identify and act jointly on common issues and activities, including the preparation of guidelines, in the programmes of work of their respective bodies.
- B.4 Ensure (CMS Secretariat) that the Ramsar Bureau and STRP have official observer status to the CMS Scientific Council, and to participate, as appropriate, in any expert Working Groups established by the Scientific Council.
- B.5 Invite contributions by representative(s) of the secretariats and/or scientific and technical advisory bodies to other technical meetings, as appropriate.
- B.6 Continue the practice of inviting the secretariats to attend their respective Convention's meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COPs), and, as appropriate, (CMS Secretariat) facilitate the attendance of the Ramsar Bureau at the CMS Standing Committee and relevant meetings of other CMS-related Agreements/MoUs.
- B.7 Exchange information on their respective national Administrative Authorities and Focal Points (including national scientific and technical focal points), and members of Standing Committees and scientific and technical bodies, and make these available to their respective Contracting Parties so as to promote national collaboration in the implementation of the Conventions and encourage Parties to establish such national collaboration.
- B.8 Review opportunities for the development of joint activities, projects and guidelines on topics of common interest, as appropriate, in their respective Strategic Plans and implementation plans; and, where appropriate, encourage the endorsement or adoption of common sets of guidelines relevant to each instrument by their respective decision-making bodies.
- B.9 Review the CBD-Ramsar 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Work Plan 2002-2006 and the CBD-CMS Joint Work Programme 2002-2005 and seek to collaborate on the joint activities with the CBD in the light of Ramsar's role as lead implementing partner for CBD on wetlands and CMS' equivalent lead implementing partner role for migratory species.
- B.10 Provide information and news about their respective Conventions for inclusion in newsletters, bulletins and Web sites.

- B.11 Report to their respective Contracting Parties on progress in the implementation of this Joint Work Plan.

**Ramsar/AEWA**

The Ramsar Bureau and AEWA Secretariat will:

- B.12 Maintain regular contact between relevant staff on matters of common interest, including holding an annual meeting (as appropriate, jointly between Ramsar, CMS and AEWA) to review progress on this Joint Work Plan and to agree amendment or updating of the Plan as necessary.
- B.13 Facilitate contact between the Chair of Ramsar's STRP and the Chair of AEWA's Technical Committee in order to identify and act jointly on common issues and activities, including the preparation of guidelines, in the programmes of work of their respective bodies.
- B.14 Ensure (AEWA Secretariat) that the Ramsar Bureau continues to have official observer status to the AEWA Technical Committee, and to participate, as appropriate, in any expert Working Groups established by this Committee.
- B.15 Invite contributions by representative(s) of the secretariats and/or scientific and technical advisory bodies to other technical meetings, as appropriate.
- B.16 Exchange information on their respective national Administrative Authorities and Focal Points (including national scientific and technical focal points) and members of Standing Committees and scientific and technical bodies, and make these available to their respective Contracting Parties/Range States so as to promote national collaboration in the implementation of the Convention and Agreement and encourage Parties to establish such national collaboration.
- B.17 Review opportunities for the development of joint activities, projects and guidelines on topics of common interest, as appropriate, in the Ramsar Strategic Plan and implementation plans, and the AEWA International Implementation Priorities 2003-2007; and, where appropriate, encourage the endorsement or adoption of common sets of guidelines relevant to each instrument by their respective decision-making bodies.
- B.18 Provide information and news about their respective Convention/Agreement for inclusion in newsletters, bulletins and Web sites.
- B.19 Report to their respective Contracting Parties/Range States on progress in the implementation of this Joint Work Plan.

**C. Joint actions for the conservation and wise use of wetland-dependent migratory species and their habitats**

**Actions to be taken:**

**Ramsar/CMS**

The Ramsar Bureau and CMS Secretariat will:

- C.1 Make available to CMS Parties the Ramsar 'toolkit' of Wise Use Handbooks and to Ramsar Contracting Parties relevant issues of the CMS Technical Publication Series, so as to provide guidance in support of local, national and regional collaborative activities.
- C.2 Encourage the identification and designation as a priority by Ramsar Contracting Parties of coherent national and international networks of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) for wetland-dependent migratory species
- C.3 Encourage, as a priority, the development and implementation by CMS Parties of relevant species action plans and Agreements, which may incorporate site networks designated under the Ramsar Convention or CMS, as appropriate.
- C.4 In support of the identification and designation of important sites for wetland-dependent migratory species:
  - i) seek to make available all relevant data and information to all Ramsar and CMS Contracting Parties and other relevant bodies of the conventions (Secretariat, technical advisory body, Standing Committee), with the assistance of Wetlands International, BirdLife International, CMS Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS) and other databases, information materials on migratory waterbirds including, *inter alia*, Wetlands International's *Waterbird Population Estimates*, information from Wetlands International's International Waterbird Census (IWC) and BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme, and waterbird taxonomic atlases, including those prepared under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (see also Action D.6);
  - ii) share (CMS Secretariat) with Ramsar Contracting Parties, through the Ramsar Bureau, information on CMS' ongoing work on marine turtles and other marine species including, as appropriate, the designation of sites of importance for these species and possible development of site networks under CMS to promote their conservation; and
  - iii) share (CMS Secretariat) with Ramsar Contracting Parties, through the Ramsar Bureau, information on CMS's ongoing work on migratory fishes, as listed by the GROMS, and seek to identify those species highly dependent on wetlands, their conservation status, and their possible key role in the ecosystem.
- C.5 Building on experience gained during the development of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Flyways GEF project, and in collaboration with national authorities, UNEP, Wetlands International and others, seek to identify appropriate wetlands which are internationally important for migratory waterbirds in the Western Hemisphere and/or in the Asia-Pacific region area which could be used to demonstrate the role of sustainable wetland management in the joint implementation of both Conventions, and which could underpin the development of appropriate instruments under CMS for their conservation and sustainable use. Once a site or

sites has been identified, the secretariats will support the relevant national authorities in the preparation of a project proposal to seek the resources for implementing the demonstration activities.

- C.6 Provide (Ramsar Bureau) details to the CMS Secretariat of those projects assessed as suitable for funding under the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (SGF), so that the CMS Secretariat can give consideration to supporting or jointly supporting projects which would help to implement its programme of work or offer advice on other potential sources of funds should the project not be approved for SGF funding; share information on funded projects; and make available to the CMS Secretariat reports of finalised relevant projects.
- C.7 Provide (CMS Secretariat) details to the Ramsar Bureau of those projects assessed as suitable for support under its small-scale project fund, so that the Ramsar Bureau can give consideration to supporting or jointly supporting projects which would help to implement its programme of work or offer advice on other potential sources of funds should the project not be approved for CMS funding; share information on funded projects; and make available to the Ramsar Bureau reports of finalised relevant projects.
- C.8 Support Wetlands International and other appropriate organizations and partners in their further development of a funding proposal to establish a global wetland training service, as outlined in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Action 20.1.1).

### **Ramsar/AEWA**

The Ramsar Bureau and AEWA Secretariat will:

- C.9 Make available to AEWA Range States the Ramsar 'toolkit' of Wise Use Handbooks so as to provide guidance in support of local, national and regional collaborative activities.
- C.10 Encourage (Ramsar Bureau) the identification and designation as a priority by Ramsar Contracting Parties of coherent national and international networks of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for migratory waterbirds in Africa and Eurasia, including in support of AEWA Implementation Priorities 2003-2007.
- C.11 In support of the identification and designation of Ramsar Sites for migratory waterbirds in Africa and Eurasia, seek to make available to all Ramsar Contracting Parties, with the assistance of Wetlands International and BirdLife International, information materials on migratory waterbirds including, *inter alia*, Wetlands International's *Waterbird Population Estimates*, information from Wetlands International's International Waterbird Census (IWC) and BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme, and waterbird taxa flyway atlases.
- C.12 Cooperate in developing activities and further guidance on issues identified in the AEWA International Implementation Priorities 2003-2007, including, *inter alia*, invasive species of aquatic weeds, use of agrochemicals in Africa, exchange of know-how on traditional approaches to wetland and waterbird management in Africa, and the phasing out the use of lead shot in wetlands, and encourage their respective

Administrative Authorities and Focal Points to develop and implement cooperative actions on the issues at national level.

- C.13 Continue to work together to support the finalisation by Wetlands International of the African-Eurasian Flyway project proposal for a full-sized UNEP-GEF project and its implementation, as and when approved, and seek to identify sources of sufficient matching funds for project implementation, including examination of whether other projects of any cooperating organization would qualify as initiating funds for the UNEP/GEF project.
- C.14 Provide (Ramsar Bureau) details to the AEWA Secretariat of those projects assessed as suitable for funding under the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (SGF), so that the AEWA Secretariat can give consideration to supporting or jointly supporting projects which would help to implement its programme of work or offer advice on other potential sources of funds should the project not be approved for SGF funding; share information on funded projects; and make available to the AEWA Secretariat reports of finalised relevant projects.
- C.15 Provide (AEWA Secretariat) details to the Ramsar Bureau of those projects assessed as suitable for support under its small-scale project fund, as and when established, so that the Ramsar Bureau can give consideration to supporting or jointly supporting projects which would help to implement its programme of work or offer advice on other potential sources of funds should the project not be approved for AEWA funding; share information on funded projects; and make available to the Ramsar Bureau reports of finalised relevant projects.

## **D. Data collection, storage and analysis**

### **Actions to be taken:**

#### **Ramsar/CMS**

The Ramsar Bureau and CMS Secretariat will:

- D.1 Jointly pursue appropriate follow-up actions to the report of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on harmonising the information management of the biodiversity-related conventions and to the outcomes of the UNEP pilot projects on methodologies for streamlining national reporting by Contracting Parties.
- D.2 Continue to make available to each other the information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports to each Convention relevant to the conservation and wise use of wetland-dependent migratory species and their habitats.
- D.3 Share the methodology and database design for handling and analysis of National Reports to their respective meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
- D.4 Review opportunities for harmonising questions on common issues in the design of their National Report formats for Ramsar COP9 and CMS COP8.

- D.5 Explore with Wetlands International the need and opportunity for analyses of the Ramsar Sites Database to provide information to their respective Contracting Parties on the occurrence and gaps in the Ramsar network of sites supporting migratory species.
- D.6 With the AEWA Secretariat, explore with Wetlands International and BirdLife International the further development of opportunities for making data and information on sites for wetland-dependent migratory species from Wetland International's International Waterbird Census (IWC) and BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme available to Contracting Parties to support their implementation of the two Conventions and the Agreement, and encourage Contracting Parties to utilise this data and information to secure the conservation and wise use of coherent networks of sites for migratory species.
- D.7 **Increase efforts to link** databases and other relevant information on migratory wetland species and their habitat. This includes *inter alia* the provision (CMS Secretariat) to the Ramsar Bureau of information on the CMS Information Management System and the Global Register of Migratory Species and their use, so that they can be drawn to the attention of Ramsar Contracting Parties as a source of background information on wetland-dependent migratory species within their territories; **and the provision (Ramsar Bureau) of information on the Ramsar Sites Database and other relevant databases.**
- D.8 With the AEWA Secretariat, work with scientific and technical subsidiary bodies and Contracting Parties/Range States and other relevant programmes and organizations to review and, as necessary, develop for joint agreement, *inter alia*, definitions and glossaries of terms, habitat type classifications, scientific standards for population estimates, monitoring protocols, conservation status categories, and criteria for international importance, drawing on existing agreed standards and materials.
- D.9 Review the publication platforms already developed by the GROMS, such as CD-ROM, OpenGIS web services and email discussion lists, as possible media for making available data and information under C.4 above.
- D.10 Seek to develop coordinated and harmonised communication with the Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD.

### **Ramsar/AEWA**

The Ramsar Bureau and AEWA Secretariat will:

- D.11 Explore with Wetlands International and BirdLife International the further development of opportunities for making data and information on sites for wetland-dependent migratory species from Wetland International's International Waterbird Census (IWC) and BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme available to Contracting Parties to support their implementation of the Convention and Agreement, and encourage Contracting Parties/Range States to utilise this data and information to secure the conservation and wise use of coherent networks of sites for migratory waterbirds in the Africa/Eurasia region.

- D.12 Ensure (AEWA Secretariat) that information materials prepared for the Agreement on migratory waterbirds, including *inter alia* waterbird flyway atlases, are made available to Ramsar Contracting Parties to support their identification and designation of Ramsar site networks in Africa and Eurasia, and encourage Contracting Parties to designate coherent networks of sites for migratory waterbirds in the Africa/Eurasia region.
- D.13 Jointly pursue appropriate follow-up actions to the report of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on harmonising the information management of the biodiversity-related conventions, as well as to the outcomes of the UNEP pilot projects on methodologies for streamlining national reporting by Contracting Parties.
- D.14 Make available to each other the information provided by Contracting Parties/Range States in their National Reports to the Ramsar Convention and AEWA relevant to the conservation and wise use of wetland-dependent migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa/Eurasia.
- D.15 Share (Ramsar Bureau) with the AEWA Secretariat its methodology and database design for handling and analysis of National Reports to COP8.
- D.16 Review opportunities for harmonising questions on common issues in the design of their National Report formats for Ramsar COP9 and AEWA MOP3.
- D.17 Seek to develop coordinated and harmonised communication to the Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD.

**E. New Agreements and other related actions under CMS for migratory species, including endangered migratory species and species with an unfavourable conservation status**

**Actions to be taken:**

**Ramsar/CMS**

The Ramsar Bureau and CMS Secretariat will:

- E.1 Investigate ways of cooperating with respect to endangered migratory species, notably those on the CMS Appendix I, and especially in relation to species for which Memoranda of Understanding exist, including *inter alia* Siberian Crane and Slender-billed Curlew, and seek to ensure that such instruments take account of, and promote, the designation as Ramsar sites of key localities for the endangered species concerned, as well as their effective management, *inter alia* using the tools and guidance available through the Ramsar Convention for these purposes.
- E.2 Seek to ensure that any Memoranda and Action Plans concerning wetland-dependent endangered migratory species concluded under CMS also fully take account of, and promote, the designation and management as Ramsar sites of key localities for the migratory species concerned.

- E.3 Seek to ensure that the designation as Ramsar sites of key localities for wetland-dependent migratory species takes full account of, and actively contributes to, the development and implementation of relevant CMS instruments for the species concerned.
- E.4 Cooperate in developing a systematic forward view of priorities in the identification, development and implementation of future CMS Agreements with respect to migratory species included in CMS Appendix II, particularly those that are entirely or mainly dependent on wetlands and that have an unfavourable conservation status. Such cooperation will include promotion, among Ramsar Contracting Parties, of the desirability of concluding Agreements under CMS which could also provide for, *inter alia*, the designation of key wetlands as Ramsar sites. At the same time, encourage Range States to take measures for these species in national wetland policies, making use of Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 for guidance on “Developing and Implementing National Wetland Policies”.
- E.5 Work together, with the AEWA Secretariat, Wetlands International, and BirdLife International, as appropriate, in considering opportunities for the further development of collaboration on actions for migratory waterbirds on the Central Asian and East Asian Flyways. This cooperation will include ensuring that the synergies and complementarity of Ramsar, CMS and AEWA are fully drawn to the attention of Contracting Parties to each Convention.

#### **Ramsar/AEWA**

The Ramsar Bureau and AEWA Secretariat will:

- E.6 Work together, with the CMS Secretariat, Wetlands International and BirdLife International, in considering opportunities for the further development of collaboration on actions for migratory waterbirds on the Central Asian Flyway, including the possibility of extending AEWA to cover countries in this region. This cooperation will include ensuring that the synergies and complementarity of Ramsar, CMS and AEWA are fully drawn to the attention of Contracting Parties to each Convention (see A.4).

### **F. Review of the Plan**

#### **Actions to be taken:**

#### **Ramsar/CMS**

The Ramsar Bureau and CMS Secretariat will:

- F.1 Keep under regular review the Actions in this Joint Work Plan so as to take into account the relevant decisions of the Conferences and Meetings of Parties to the Conventions. In the first instance the plan will be reviewed in early 2004. Thereafter an annual review meeting is envisaged jointly between the Ramsar Bureau and the CMS and AEWA Secretariats.

#### **Ramsar/AEWA**

The Ramsar Bureau and AEWA Secretariat will:

- F.2 Keep under regular review the Actions in this Joint Work Plan so as to take into account the relevant decisions of the Ramsar Conferences of the Parties and AEWA Meetings of Parties to the Conventions. In the first instance the plan will be reviewed in early 2004. Thereafter an annual review meeting is envisaged jointly between the Ramsar Bureau and the CMS and AEWA Secretariats.