



8th MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
03 - 05 March 2008, Bonn, Germany

**DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS OF THE AEWA ACTION PLAN TO
ACCOMMODATE CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR SEABIRDS**

(Drafted by the Secretariat on behalf of Working Group 6)

BACKGROUND

In addition to its call in Resolution 2.1, the Meeting of the Parties requested the Technical Committee in Resolution 3.8 to “...further consider the potential of the Agreement in the conservation of seabirds...” The Technical Committee undertook thorough analysis of the seabird conservation at international level and laid down its conclusions in a paper, which was approved intersessionally on 23 July 2007 (please see *Doc TC Inf 8.1*). In the conclusions of this paper, the Technical Committee recommends adding a new set of 20 species of seabirds to the AEWA Annex 2 (the Agreement’s species list).

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

In its latest seabird paper dated 23 July 2007, the Technical Committee did not discuss the necessary conservation measures to address specific threats to marine environments. Currently the AEWA Action Plan does not include provisions for sea conservation despite the fact that a number of seabirds are already listed in its Annex 2 (African Penguin, Cape Gannet, cormorants, seaducks, gulls and terns).

To bridge this gap, the following two new paragraphs are proposed to be added to chapter 4.3. (Other Human Activities) of the Action Plan:

“Parties shall cooperate with a view to minimizing the impact of fisheries on migratory waterbirds through bycatch and over-fishing, leading to depletion of food resources for migratory waterbirds.”

“Parties shall ensure that adequate statutory pollution controls are in place, including those relating to oil spills, which are in accordance with international norms, for the purpose of minimizing their impacts on the populations listed in Table 1.”

These new texts would provide a basis for tackling (the) major threats such as bycatch in fishing gear, food shortage due to fish stock depletion in result of overfishing, and oil pollution, and would be beneficial not only for the newly suggested species, but for a number of species already listed under AEWA. However, these texts are still very general in their wording and more detailed guidance on measures might be considered by the TC.

Other threats that affect seabirds, such as habitat destruction and degradation and unsustainable human exploitation, as well as disturbance at breeding sites, are already addressed by existing texts in the AEWA Action Plan. At the same time some specific problems such as solid waste pollution at sea and introduced terrestrial predators still remain outside the scope of the Action Plan.

ACTIONS REQUESTED FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Technical Committee is invited to review this proposal, make amendments and additions as appropriate, and approve it for follow up procedure in accordance with Article X of the AEWA for amendments to the Agreement.