AEWA

Proceedings of the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Dakar, Senegal
23 - 27 October 2005

UNEP / AEWA Secretariat

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

DAKAR, SENEGAL, 23-27 OCTOBER 2005

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD 5

PART I:

Report of the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties 7

Annex I: Resolutions and Decision 3.1 39

Annex II: Rules of Procedure 147

Annex III: List of Participants..... 159

Annex IV: List of Documents 180

Annex V: Update on the progress in developing a Single Species Action Plan for the Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*)..... 182

PART II:

Opening Statements (reproduced in the form submitted to the Secretariat) 183

Statements made during the Official Opening Ceremony 185

Statements of Contracting Parties..... 195

Statements of Non-Party Range States..... 205

Statements of Observer Organisations..... 213

FOREWORD

In accordance with Article VI of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, the Agreement Secretariat shall convene an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, the decision-making organ of the Agreement, at intervals of not more than three years. The Third session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP3) took place from 23-27 October 2005 in Dakar, Senegal.

The Proceedings of MOP3 include, *inter alia*, the Report of the Meeting, the Resolutions and the Decision adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and Opening Statements submitted by Contracting Parties, Non-Party Range States and Observer Organisations.

PART I

REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES (MOP3)

INTRODUCTION

The third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) was held at the Conference Centre Hotel Meridien, in Dakar, Senegal, from 23 to 27 October 2005 at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Senegal. A list of participants at the Meeting is attached to the present report.

Agenda item 1. Opening

1. Opening the Third Meeting of Parties (MOP3) to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), Mr Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Deputy Director of the West African Programme of Wetlands International, welcomed delegates to Senegal. He informed the Meeting that the Official Opening Ceremony would take place on 24 October. In the meantime, the host country would do everything possible to facilitate the work of the MOP. The Chair of the Standing Committee (Mr Emmanuel Severre, Tanzania) would chair the current plenary session until the election of a meeting Chair and Vice-Chair had been completed.

2. The Chair of the Standing Committee thanked the Government of Senegal for undertaking the responsibility of hosting the MOP and expressed his appreciation of the high standard of meeting facilities and the warm welcome afforded to delegates.

3. The Chair of the Standing Committee noted that the MOP coincided with the emergence of avian influenza as a global issue, the potential role of migratory birds in the spread of the disease in both Europe and Africa, and concerns about the readiness and capacities of governments to respond. The MOP should make a statement on these issues.

4. The Executive Secretary welcomed Contracting Parties, non-Party Range States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. He was grateful to the Government of Senegal for its tremendous efforts to make the MOP a success. With regard to avian influenza he agreed that this was a rapidly emerging and complex issue and acknowledged concerns in Africa that the region might be much less able than Europe to deal with possible human health impacts. However, it was important to underline that European countries did not have all the answers to the problem.

5. The Executive Secretary noted that the MOP would be followed, in November, by the Conferences of Parties of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Migratory Species, to be held in Uganda and Kenya respectively. This would provide an excellent opportunity for emphasizing issues of importance to Africa and means of working together to address these.

6. The Chair of the Standing Committee referred to document MOP 3.3 Rev.2 'Provisional Annotated Agenda' and MOP 3.4 Rev.2 'Provisional Work Programme' and invited the Executive Secretary to introduce a number of proposed amendments.

7. The Executive Secretary tabled amendments to both documents, notably the postponement of the Opening Ceremony to 24 October.

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

1st Plenary Session (23 October)

8. The Chair of the Standing Committee referred to document MOP 3.2 Rev.1 'Rules of Procedure' and proposed reviewing it page by page.

9. The United Kingdom raised points of clarification relating to the internal consistency of the Rules of Procedure. However, as these were relatively minor issues they could be dealt with via a small drafting group. This proposal, supported by the European Community and Switzerland, was accepted by the Meeting and a group comprised of the European Community, Lebanon, Kenya, Uganda and UK was tasked with reviewing the Rules of Procedure and reporting back to plenary as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Rules of Procedure would be applied on a provisional basis.

4th Plenary Session (24 October)

10. The Chair referred to document MOP 3.2 Rev. 2 that had recently been distributed and asked the UK to report on progress made by the small drafting group established on 23 October.

11. The UK summarized the various amendments proposed by the drafting group and shown as tracked changes in the revised document.

12. Switzerland raised concerns over Rule 4.2 and Rule 10, while Mauritius/Chair of the Technical Committee and Tanzania/Chair of the Standing Committee felt that it would be better to retain the original wording of Rule 7.2 rather than introduce the amendment proposed by the drafting group.

13. Discussion did not lead to full consensus on these points and the Chair asked the UK to work further on the document, in collaboration with interested delegations, and to come back to the plenary session with a revised proposal.

14. Germany, speaking as Chair of the Credentials Committee, referred to Rule 18.2 and suggested amendments to facilitate the work of future Credentials Committees at AEWA MOPs.

7th Plenary Session (27 October)

15. The revised Rules of Procedures (document MOP3.2 Rev.3) were adopted by the Meeting without further amendment.

Agenda item 3. Election of Officers

16. Speaking on behalf of the European Union Member States present, the UK nominated the Republic of Senegal to chair MOP3. This proposal was supported by Syria and adopted by acclamation.

17. Mauritius proposed Germany as Vice-Chair of the MOP. This proposal was supported by Senegal and adopted by acclamation.

18. Assuming his role as Chair, Professor Amadou Tidiane Ba, Director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Senegal, thanked delegates for the confidence placed in Senegal.

Agenda item 4. Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme

19. The Executive Secretary recalled the proposed amendments to both the Provisional Annotated Agenda and Provisional Work Programme already tabled under Agenda item 1.

20. Switzerland requested clarification of use of the term 'Bureau' in the Provisional Work Programme and also requested that highlights of discussions in the Sessional Committees should be reported back to plenary as a means of assisting one-person delegations unable to attend parallel Sessional Committees.

21. The Executive Secretary clarified that 'Bureau' should in fact refer to 'Meeting Committee' (as provided for in the Rules of Procedure). The Chairs of Sessional Committees would indeed be asked to report back to plenary.

22. Speaking on behalf of the EU Member States present, the UK proposed two minor amendments to the Agenda.

23. The Meeting adopted the Provisional Annotated Agenda and Provisional Work Programme as amended by the proposals tabled by the Executive Secretary and the UK. Revised versions of both documents (MOP 3.3 Rev.3 and MOP 3.4 Rev.3, respectively) were distributed later on 23 October.

Agenda item 5. Establishment of Credentials Committee and Sessional Committees

1st Plenary Session (23 October)

24. The Executive Secretary recalled that a Credentials Committee composed of at least two Contracting Parties from Africa and at least two from Eurasia was required under the Rules of Procedure.

25. The Meeting appointed Congo, Germany, Guinea, Mauritius and Ukraine to serve on the Credentials Committee, each of these Contracting Parties having volunteered to do so.

4th Plenary Session (24 October)

26. The Chair established two Sessional Committees. The first on Financial and Administrative Matters, to be chaired by Germany, being the Vice-Chair of the MOP, and the second on Scientific and Technical Matters to be chaired by the Chair of the Technical Committee. These would meet on the evening of 24 October and report back to plenary.

Agenda item 6. Admission of Observers

27. The Executive Secretary read out the list of non-Party Range States, intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations and national non-governmental organizations distributed as document MOP 3.5 'Admission of Observers'.

28. The Meeting duly agreed to admit all the Observers listed.

Agenda item 7. Opening Statements

29. The Chair recalled that written statements were not to be presented orally, but would be collected by the Secretariat for inclusion in the meeting report. However, non-Party Range States were invited to make brief oral statements, should they wish to do so, on progress towards joining AEWA.

30. Latvia confirmed that the Government of Latvia had adopted the Agreement in August 2005.

31. Switzerland, speaking as the host country of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, noted that a written statement on behalf of the Convention would be handed to the Secretariat.

32. Algeria reported ratification of the Convention on Migratory Species in March 2005. The same procedure would be followed for AEWA. As soon as the relevant decree was published, ratification documents would be deposited.

33. Burundi stated its intention to become a member of the CMS/AEWA family.

34. Chad referred to its recent ratification of AEWA and stated that the necessary official documentation would soon be transmitted to the Depositary.

35. These statements were greeted by acclamation. The Chair added his welcome to the announcements made and encouraged other non-Party Range States to follow suit.

Agenda item 8. Reports

a) Standing Committee

36. Introducing document MOP 3.6 'Report of the Standing Committee', the Chair of the Standing Committee reported on the Committee's activities during the last triennium. As the Standing Committee had only been established in 2002, this was the first such report to a MOP. At the Committee's first meeting, Tanzania had been elected as Chair, with the Netherlands as Vice-Chair. Two further meetings had been held during the period.

37. The Chair of the Standing Committee closed his presentation by thanking the Government of Senegal for hosting MOP3. He also thanked those who had attended Standing Committee meetings for their input during the triennium, and the Secretariat for ensuring the timely preparation of these meetings.

38. Switzerland expressed concern about the delay in the process of recruitment of the Executive Secretary. Switzerland was very satisfied with the performance of the acting Executive Secretary, and asked the Chair of the Standing Committee to convey this message to the Executive Director of UNEP.

39. France, Germany and the UK echoed Switzerland's satisfaction with the performance of the Executive Secretary.

40. The Chair welcomed Switzerland's proposal.

41. The Chair of the Standing Committee also welcomed Switzerland's intervention. The subject had been discussed frequently, and it was not clear where the problem lay. Moreover, letters had been written to the Executive Director, but no definitive information had been forthcoming. There was no doubt about the Executive Secretary's competence, and he proposed that the Meeting should pass a resolution expressing its grave concern.

42. It was agreed that Switzerland, Germany and any other interested delegations would draft an appropriate resolution for the Meeting's consideration.

43. UNEP informed the Meeting that it regretted the lengthy process, but that UNEP was currently organising interviews to take place before the end of the year. UNEP assumed responsibility for ensuring that the matter was given the highest priority and would be settled before end of 2005.

44. The report of the Standing Committee Chair was adopted.

b) Technical Committee

45. Speaking initially on behalf of Mauritius, the Chair of the Technical Committee (Mr Yousoof Mungroo) thanked the host country for the warm welcome received in Senegal and the Secretariat for preparation of the MOP.

46. The Chair of the Technical Committee presented document MOP 3.7 'Report of the Chair of the AEWA Technical Committee to the 3rd Session of the Meeting of the Parties'. During the triennium 2003-2005 three meetings had been held, and many items had been finalized for presentation to the MOP. The Technical Committee had also established several intersessional working groups.

47. The Chair of the Technical Committee thanked the members of the Committee for facilitating his task as Chairman.

48. UNEP/CMS Secretariat noted that the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species would be discussing the Global Registry of Migratory Species (GROMS) at its forthcoming meeting in Nairobi. An assessment had been made, and CMS considered that the database needed improvement, and more time should be allowed for this. UNEP/CMS conceded, however, that it was possibly not suited to AEWA's requirements.

49. The report of the Chair of the Technical Committee was adopted.

c) Depositary

50. In the absence of a representative of the Depositary (the Netherlands), the Executive Secretary reported that since the last MOP the number of Contracting Parties had risen from 33 to 52. Document MOP 3.8 'Report of the Depositary' did not reflect the current situation, as it did not include Tunisia, which had become a Party as of 1 July 2005. Many other countries were currently in the process of acceding, and were expected to join soon. The Secretariat was pleased with the progress to date and looked forward to further growth of the Agreement in the near future.

51. On behalf of the EU Member States present, the United Kingdom congratulated the Secretariat on its successful efforts to recruit new Parties.

d) Secretariat

52. The Executive Secretary presented document MOP 3.9 Rev.1 'Report of the Secretariat', which was divided into four sections (General Matters, Information Management, Cooperation with Other Organizations, Technical and Scientific Matters). The report did not cover routine, day-to-day tasks, which nevertheless constituted a large part of the Secretariat's work.

53. On the subject of the imminent move of the Secretariat, and other UN organizations located in Bonn, to the new UN premises, the Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude to the German Government for the accommodation so generously provided.

54. The Executive Secretary introduced AEWA's Technical Officer, Mr Sergey Dereliev, recruited in August 2004, and new Junior Professional Officer, Mr Florian Keil, a position funded by the Government of Germany with a focus on information management. The Secretariat also regularly employed temporary staff members, though the fact that – in line with UN rules – these had to be replaced every six months caused some difficulties.

55. The Secretariat's work on information management had included improving the AEWA website, producing three newsletters and the launch of a monthly electronic newsletter. A second DVD had been produced, as had a new exhibition. The Government of Luxembourg had kindly provided funds to produce public relations material of various kinds.

56. Switzerland enquired about the outcomes of the meeting that had taken place in Chad with financial support from AEWA. Chad reported that the funding had been used for organization of the workshop, for preparation of the meeting report, and to assist with preparation of Chad's instruments of accession to AEWA.

57. Mali felt that the Secretariat's networking with Parties and non-Parties had been a major activity that was not adequately represented in the report.

58. The Executive Secretary emphasized that contact with Parties was one of the routine, everyday tasks not included in the report, but acknowledged the need for continued strengthening of network-building efforts.

Agenda item 9. Report on the Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of AEWA in 2005

59. The Executive Secretary described the various activities organized to mark AEWA's tenth anniversary. These included the development of a new AEWA logo, improvements to the website, and the launch of 'Migratory Waterbird Day', which had been celebrated for the first time in 22 countries in the region. Countries had been provided with funds to print a poster, which had appeared in several languages. It was planned to repeat this event in the coming years, hopefully attracting even more attention.

60. The Secretariat, together with the CMS family, had celebrated the actual anniversary on 16 June 2005, and some weeks later had been honoured when the German Minister of the Environment had opened the AEWA exhibition in Bonn's Museum Koenig. The Secretariat had also distributed copies of a special anniversary brochure. This included contributions from ten people closely associated with the Agreement during its first ten years, and had been produced in English and French versions.

61. The Secretariat's report was adopted.

Agenda item 10. Review of the Implementation of the AEWA International Implementation Priorities 2003-2007

62. The Executive Secretary presented document MOP 3.10 Rev.1 'Report on the Performance of the AEWA International Implementation Priorities Plan 2003–2007'. He was pleased to report that the sum of USD 940,000 – mentioned as having been secured in voluntary contributions – had been exceeded since the document was distributed. Despite the loss of 25% of the purchasing power of the US dollar, the Secretariat had still managed to implement many activities listed in the Plan. The list included only those projects for which funding had been received directly by AEWA.

63. The UK, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States present, congratulated the Secretariat on having secured such a large sum for these projects. This had been a substantial piece of work and was greatly to the Secretariat's credit.

64. Switzerland echoed these congratulations, but felt that one project was missing, namely the publication of the results of the African Waterbird Census for 1999–2001. The Executive Secretary apologized for this omission and promised to rectify it. Wetlands International added that this project had been concluded and the results published.

65. The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting of an addition to the Agenda to permit one of the projects in the International Implementation Priorities for the last triennium to be presented.

66. Mr Moussa Séga Diop (CERES-Locustox, Senegal) made a presentation entitled 'Review of the use of agrochemicals in Africa and their impacts on migratory waterbirds'.

67. Thanking Mr Diop, the Chair noted that the presentation had highlighted the correlation between pesticide use and waterbird mortality and that this was an issue to which the Agreement might have to pay more attention.

68. Croatia requested that the presentation be made available to delegates in printed form.

69. Kenya raised the issue of pollution from heavy metals and suggested that a similar study be undertaken on this. The Chair requested the Secretariat to take note of this suggestion for future consideration.

70. The European Community noted that the study clearly linked priority species under AEWA with one of the pressures and threats in Africa, and asked how the recommendations concerning further work on residue analysis were being taken forward. Mr Diop responded that research into this issue was far from complete.

71. Algeria pointed out that agrochemicals are often wrongly portrayed as internationally approved biodegradable substances that are not damaging to nature.

72. The UK noted that the draft list of International Implementation Priorities for the coming triennium would need adjusting in order to take forward the issue of agrochemicals and waterbirds.

Agenda item 11. Report on the Implementation of the African-Eurasian Flyways GEF Projects

73. Mr Ward Hagemeijer, Wetlands International, made a presentation on the UNEP/GEF Flyways Project 'Enhancing the conservation of the critical network of sites required by Migratory Waterbirds on the African/Eurasian Flyways'.

74. He stressed that this was a strategic project, not aiming at actual implementation of field activities, but rather to the building of capacity and catalysing of activities. The goal was to improve the conservation status of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds by conserving the network of key sites used by these species. The project had been under development since 2000 and implementation would begin soon, following the imminent conclusion of contracts between GEF, UNEP and UNOPS. Recruitment of a Chief Technical Adviser was now taking place and a Junior Officer would also be recruited. These two UNOPS positions would constitute the Project Coordination Unit to be hosted by Wetlands International in Wageningen.

75. The main actors in the project were:

- Requesting countries (i.e. those countries where demonstration projects were located)
- Technical agencies (Wetlands International, BirdLife International, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), and local executing agencies)
- UNEP as implementing body and UNOPS as executing body
- Main supported agreements/conventions (AEWA and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands)
- Main funders (GEF, AEWA and the Government of Germany).

76. The main components of the project were:

- Strengthening the scientific basis for conservation activities through development of a comprehensive, flyway-scale critical site network planning and management tool;
- Establishing a basis for strengthened decision-making and technical capacity for conservation of wetlands and migratory waterbirds;
- Enhancing availability and exchange of information through improved conservation capacity and resource provision.

77. Steps were being taken, in conjunction with the requesting countries and the technical agencies, to identify immediate priorities for implementation.

78. In response to a question from Senegal, Wetlands International clarified that 'executing' and 'implementing' agencies have specific meanings in GEF project terminology. In this case, UNEP was the implementing agency and UNOPS the executing agency. However, technical support would be provided by Wetlands International, BirdLife International and UNEP-WCMC.

79. The European Community considered that the project would provide a strategic opportunity for advancement of AEWA and its Action Plan and was encouraged that implementation of the project was about to begin. However, it would be helpful to know exactly how the results were to be fed into the development of AEWA.

80. Wetlands International stated that the GEF project would contribute to at least 75% of AEWA's International Implementation Priorities.

81. The Executive Secretary added that by linking the GEF programme with the International Implementation Priorities, a 'win-win' situation would be achieved because each mechanism would contribute 50% of the corresponding project costs. Furthermore 50% of the new Junior Professional Officer's time would be dedicated to the GEF project, including distribution of information about the project.

Agenda item 12. Register of International Projects

82. The Secretariat introduced draft Resolution 3.1 'Closure of the Register of International Projects' established by MOP Resolution 1.5. The rate of submission of projects to the Register had been low, meaning that it was always out of date and did not fulfil its intended purpose. This problem had been discussed by the Technical Committee at its 6th Meeting. The Technical Committee recommended that the Register should be closed, as it would anyway be superseded by the proposed on-line reporting format for AEWA National Reports.

83. The UK proposed the following addition to the first preambular paragraph: " …which sought to record those projects where Parties, Range States and other partners were working collaboratively to take forward the objectives of the Agreement".

Agenda item 13. Official Opening Ceremony

84. His Excellency Mr Thierno Lo, Minister of the Environment and Nature Protection of the Republic of Senegal, presided over the official opening ceremony for the 3rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds. The ceremony, held during the morning of 24 October, commenced with music and dance.

85. The Executive Secretary of AEWA expressed his pleasure that the Meeting of the Parties was taking place in Senegal and renewed his thanks for the hospitality shown to participants. The issue of avian flu was causing much concern in Africa and he hoped the Meeting would help clarify the issue, which had implications beyond those affecting migratory birds.

86. The newly-appointed UNEP Director of the Division of Environmental Conventions, Mr Bakary Kante, conveyed a message to the Meeting from UNEP's Executive Director, Professor Klaus Töpfer. The Executive Director noted that AEWA was celebrating a landmark anniversary. Migrating birds that crossed political boundaries depended for their survival on the national policies of the countries concerned. With regard to avian flu, the new CMS International Task Force on Avian Influenza, of which AEWA was a member, had warned that several bird species could be wiped out by the disease, and that

there was a potential risk of a human pandemic through further mutation of the virus. Prevention would depend on taking action on the basis of the best information available. The Task Force was preparing a press release that would be distributed to the Meeting. With regard to the future of AEWA, the Executive Director asked the Parties to view the proposed budget increase favourably, as the work of the Secretariat depended on its having sufficient funds. UNEP had provided USD 25,000 to AEWA to support the participation in the MOP of delegates from least developed countries, and was looking at additional ways to strengthen UNEP/AEWA cooperation, especially in the fields of outreach and awareness-raising. UNEP wished to express its full support for AEWA and assured the Meeting that it would make every effort to strengthen cooperation with AEWA and the wider CMS family in the years to come.

Agenda item 14. AEWA Award Presentation Ceremony

87. The Executive Secretary announced that the AEWA Award was being presented to mark the tenth anniversary of the Agreement, but should continue to be awarded at each subsequent MOP. The winners had been chosen, by the Standing Committee, on the basis of nominations received. In the individual category the award was made to Mr David Stroud (UK) in acknowledgement of his invaluable and unstinting work for AEWA and many other international and national bodies concerned with waterbird and wetland conservation.

88. Mr Stroud thanked AEWA saying that he was both honoured and surprised. He pledged that the financial element of the prize (USD 5,000) would be used to support African waterbird conservation. He reminded the Meeting that wetlands were in continuing and accelerating decline, more so than other ecosystems, and that this had serious consequences for waterbirds. He highlighted AEWA's role in encouraging further progress in three key areas: monitoring and reporting to ensure the availability of clear status and trends data for migratory waterbird populations; setting strategic waterbird conservation priorities with a sharp focus; and continuing to work across national boundaries.

89. In the institutional category, the AEWA Award was presented to the Government of the Netherlands, and, in particular, to the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the driving force behind the establishment of AEWA and a strong supporter of the Agreement during its first ten years. Accepting the award, Mr Chris Kalden, Secretary General of the Ministry, said that the mystery of bird migration taught respect for nature, but that much work was needed to secure the future for migratory species. He urged AEWA to give greater attention to the economic and cultural values of migratory waterbirds, and believed that the central task was to involve stakeholders at all levels, but particularly at local, field level. He announced that the Netherlands would multiply the USD 5,000 prize money by ten to provide a USD 50,000 grant to be used for waterbird conservation projects in Senegal and Cape Verde. Both of these projects had a strong community focus and symbolic presentations were made to representatives of the two initiatives: the President of the Women's Federation, Senegal, and the Director of the Wetlands International Office for West Africa.

90. The Executive Secretary announced that the Standing Committee had decided to appoint Dr Gerard C. Boere as Honorary Patron of AEWA in recognition of his status as the 'father' of the Agreement. As Dr Boere was unable to be present, his message of thanks – and assurance that he would continue to support the work of AEWA at every opportunity – was conveyed to the Meeting by the Chair of the Standing Committee.

91. Following a musical interlude, the Secretariat screened the new AEWA DVD, which included sequences shot in the Wadden Sea and in wetland areas of Senegal.

92. The Minister of Environment and Nature Protection welcomed participants on behalf of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, and the Government and people of Senegal. He thanked the Netherlands for the support given to implement environmental policy in Senegal, and was pleased that his country's efforts were being recognized internationally. Senegal was of great importance for migratory waterbirds and had a long tradition of protected areas. Wetlands were increasingly endangered, and the country was developing a national wetlands policy to meet this challenge. The network of Marine

Protected Areas, created under the auspices of the President of the Republic, also played an essential role in protecting species. Migratory waterbirds symbolized the cooperation required between countries. The avian flu issue required special attention, and the Government of Senegal would endorse any measures decided upon at this meeting. He declared the Meeting officially open.

93. As representative of the environment component of NEPAD under the auspices of the Government of Senegal, the Minister signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the CMS Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. Moulay Lahcen El Kabiri, on the newly established Coordination Mechanism for the Memorandum of Understanding on Measures to Conserve the Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa.

Agenda item 15. Avian Influenza

94. Mr Ward Hagemeijer, Wetlands International, made a presentation briefly summarizing the current state of scientific knowledge on avian influenza. The main points are presented below in paragraphs 95-104.

95. The virus causing avian influenza is H5N1, a type A influenza virus. This occurs in two forms: low pathogenic, which is endemic in many waterbirds and is not generally fatal; and highly pathogenic, which kills birds in quite large numbers. The latter affects mainly poultry but the virus has spread to wild birds, which can transport it along migratory flyways. The low pathogenic strain can mutate to the highly pathogenic strain, especially where birds occur in high concentrations, e.g. poultry farms. There is also concern about risks to humans. The World Health Organization states that there is currently no risk to the general public and no risk from consumption of well-processed food. However, there is a potential risk if the virus mutates. The risk of a human pandemic was currently assessed as fairly low. It is important to distinguish between the current levels of risk to poultry/wild birds (high) and to people (relatively low).

96. The virus is spread via:

- transport of poultry/products
- legal/illegal trade/transport of wild birds
- migration of wild birds
- transport of poultry faeces
- intake of water contaminated with faeces
- intake of air from infected farms

97. The spread of H5N1 via migratory wild birds may be direct or indirect. It is important to know exactly how birds move from site to site and to quantify the risk associated with these movements.

98. The potential for the virus to become widespread was illustrated using examples of flyway intersections. The virus had not yet been found in Africa or South Asia, but its arrival in due course could be expected.

99. The potential impacts of avian influenza include:

- economic impacts on the poultry sector
- social and emotional impacts
- human health impacts
- impacts on livelihoods
- impacts on wild bird populations.

100. Waterbird species thought to be at particular risk of serious impacts on their populations include: Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*), Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*), Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*), Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*), Oriental Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*) and Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*).

101. In response to these potential impacts, an international Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza had been set up under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species. The CMS Task Force had underlined that there was currently insufficient understanding of the behaviour of the virus in waterbird populations, in aquatic habitats or in different climatic zones. There were also key questions with regard to the likelihood of transmission, the nature and timing of migratory routes at site-use level, and ways and means of advising on farming practices to reduce risks.

102. Nevertheless, risk reduction measures might include steps to:

- Regulate animal markets
- Set up surveillance for prevalence of the virus in wild birds
- Implement a precautionary suspension of global wild bird trade
- Improve standards for poultry farming and marketing practices
- Improve control of vaccines
- Better identify migratory routes
- Avoid counter-productive measures such as culling or destruction of habitats.

103. These all required both international and national preparedness.

104. As a member of the International Task Force, AEWA could play a key role in communicating accurate information and making it widely accessible. A press release had been distributed to the Meeting and delegates were also referred to the websites of Wetlands International and FAO for further information.

105. The European Community thanked Wetlands International for its excellent work on a very sensitive dossier and valuable scientific input to the overall debate. Avian influenza had serious implications in terms of human health, economic matters and nature conservation. The EC had taken initiatives to increase surveillance and guidance with regard to virology and ornithology. Other steps had included increased biosecurity to reduce contact between poultry and wild birds in areas considered at high risk. An informed, scientifically founded debate was required and expert information from Wetlands International and others would be critical. This was why the EC was financially supporting an assessment of available data. It was also important that countries ensured close coordination between the authorities dealing with ornithology and those dealing with virology/veterinary matters. There was clearly an important role for AEWA and CMS.

106. The UK, on behalf of the EU Member States present, considered it would be useful for the MOP to reflect on the points contained in the presentation and to set out the role of AEWA in a draft Resolution.

107. France supported this proposal.

108. Many African delegations, including Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia and the IUCN Regional Office for West Africa highlighted points of special concern to Africa. In particular, the difficulty of responding to the challenges posed by avian influenza given the region's limited resources and the significant gaps in information and awareness among decision makers and the wider public.

109. It was agreed that innovative and collaborative approaches were required to ensure that the international community supported national and regional efforts to tackle the problem. This should start from an assessment of the risks and the actions needed.

110. The Chair requested the MOP3 Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters to take up the UK's proposal and to prepare a draft Resolution.

Agenda item 16: Scientific and Technical Issues

a) Guidance on the term 'long-term decline'

111. The Chair of the Technical Committee introduced document MOP 3.11 'Proposal for guidance on the definition of the term *significant long-term decline* of waterbird populations'. He noted that in response to the request from MOP2 to develop such guidance, the Technical Committee had established a working group chaired by Mr David Stroud, UK. At its 6th meeting, the Technical Committee had agreed on the proposal contained in MOP 3.11.

112. Mr Stroud reported on the working group's deliberations. The definition proposed was: "a significant long-term decline is one where the best available data, information or assessments indicate that it has declined by at least 25% in numbers or range over a period of 25 years or 7.5 generations". The guidance for applying the definition included the following points:

- Any definition will always need to be applied with best expert knowledge;
- Where trends differ between countries, the applied rate should cover at least half of the countries in a species' range;
- Where data are not available, periods of less than 25 years may be used, but should not normally be less than 9 years;
- Where populations are very small, judgements should be made on a precautionary basis.

113. In response to a question from Kenya, Mr Stroud confirmed the working group's recognition of the importance of information on habitat quality as a factor contributing to population declines and underlined the group's recommendation that qualitative as well as quantitative data should be used in assessing declines.

114. France welcomed the excellent work done by the Technical Committee but suggested that all available data be taken into account; not only those from the last 25 years. France also considered a period of 9 years to be too short in the case of species with naturally fluctuating populations. Finally, when a possible decline was identified on a quantitative basis, those familiar with the field situation should be asked to contribute before any decision to place the species on an Annex.

115. Germany noted that it would bring forward minor amendments to the relevant MOP3 Sessional Committee.

116 The Chair requested that the MOP3 Sessional Committee also give consideration to the points made by France.

b) Clarification of the procedures used to delimit biogeographical populations of waterbirds

117. The Chair of the Technical Committee introduced document MOP 3.12 'Proposal for guidance on the definition of biogeographical populations of waterbirds'. The Technical Committee had set up a working group under the Chairmanship of Mr David Stroud, UK. Based on the working group's findings, MOP 3.12 had been approved by the 6th meeting of the Technical Committee for forwarding to the MOP for consideration with draft Resolution 3.2.

118. Mr Stroud presented the main conclusions of the working group's review.

119. The Chair of the Technical Committee noted that the second preambular paragraph of Resolution 3.2 should refer to MOP 3.12, not MOP 3.10.

120. The EC noted that the role of Wetlands International could be more clearly expressed in draft Resolution 3.2.

121. France acknowledged the high quality of work done by the working group but suggested that Resolution 3.2 be amended to give priority to genetic studies of populations and the application of such studies to defining biogeographic populations.

122. Switzerland drew attention to the possible financial implications of Resolution 3.2, which requested additional work from Wetlands International. Such work would require funding.

123. The Chair requested that these observations and proposals be taken forward to the MOP3 Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters.

c) Developing Guidelines for interpretation of criteria used in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan

124. The Secretariat introduced draft Resolution 3.3 'Developing Guidelines for interpretation of criteria used in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan'. This suggested that in the next triennium the Technical Committee should work on the development of such guidelines and submit them for adoption to MOP4.

125. The UK proposed adding the following new operative paragraph: "Further calls upon the Technical Committee to review the guidance agreed at MOP3 for 'long-term decline' in light of its practical application and to report on its appropriateness to future MOPs".

126. The Chair asked the MOP3 Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters to consider this proposal.

Agenda item 17: Implementation of the Agreement and Action Plan

a) Synthesis of National Reports

127. The Secretariat introduced document MOP 3.13 'Preliminary Synthesis of information provided by AEWA Parties through National Reports on implementation of the Agreement for the triennium 2003-2005', drawing attention to the low submission rate of National Reports (23 from Contracting Parties as of 30 September 2005) and the consequently provisional nature of the analysis contained in that document. Implementation achievements and future priorities were briefly summarized.

b) Reports on the phasing out of lead shot for hunting in wetlands

128. The Secretariat introduced document MOP 3.14 'Preliminary synthesis of information provided by AEWA Parties on phasing out of lead shot use in wetlands'. Only 14 reports had been submitted by Contracting Parties as of 30 September 2005, less than one-third of the total due, with one additional report from a Signatory. This made the synthesis highly provisional.

c) Request for submission of missing National Reports

129. The Secretariat introduced draft Resolution 3.4, which underlined the importance of national reports and urged all Contracting Parties that had not yet done so to submit such reports by the end of 2005.

130. The Chair agreed that the information available so far could serve to indicate some general trends, but the interpretation was severely limited by the low number of reports received. He supported the call for all outstanding reports to be submitted by 31 December 2005.

131. Following a request from the UK speaking on behalf of the EU Member States present, the Chair agreed that any additional comments would be taken up in later Plenary Sessions.

Agenda item 18. Proposals for Monitoring of the Implementation of the Agreement and Action Plan

a) Proposal for an online format for National Reports

132. The Executive Secretary introduced draft Resolution 3.5 'Development of an online National Report Format'. It had been intended that this would be introduced by UNEP/WCMC, but prior commitments had prevented this. The issue had been discussed several times by the Standing Committee and Technical Committee. The intention was to make drafting of National Reports easier for Contracting Parties, based on experience under the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on Marine Turtles, which makes it possible for Parties to use a password to upload information on national activities via the internet. The plan was to do the same for AEWA in such a way that Parties could merge the information into their overall reports to CMS. The Secretariats in the CMS family were working closely together to develop a harmonized online tool. The MOP3 Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters could discuss whether to recommend introduction of the online reporting format for AEWA at MOP4, or whether it would be desirable to do it earlier.

133. The UK, on behalf of the EU Member States present, strongly supported draft Resolution 3.5, noting that much of the work was being pursued under the aegis of the UNEP Director of Environmental Conventions. The following addition to the first operative paragraph of draft Resolution 3.5 was proposed: "The format should seek to advance harmonization of reporting with other international biodiversity agreements through the development of common reporting modules".

134. During discussion, with contributions from Tanzania/Chair of the Standing Committee, the UK, UNEP/CMS and the Executive Secretary, it was recognized that it would be important to build the new system gradually, though keeping in mind the long-term goal expressed in the UK's proposed amendment. This would enable those Parties facing the greatest resource constraints to adapt to the new online format.

135. Switzerland fully supported the proposal of the UK and suggested adding to the operative paragraphs of draft Resolution 3.5: "…taking into account the results of the analysis of the difficulties encountered by certain Contracting Parties in delivering their National Reports (draft Resolution 3.4)" and adding a third operative paragraph to draft Resolution 3.4: "*Instructs* the Secretariat to analyse the difficulties encountered by certain Contracting Parties in delivering their National Reports and to make the results of this analysis available to the Standing Committee before MOP4".

136. The Chair ruled that draft Resolution 3.5 was approved, subject to inclusion of these friendly amendments, to be forwarded for formal adoption later in the Meeting.

b) Proposal to draft international reviews for MOP4

137. The AEWA Executive Secretary referred to document MOP 3.15 'Overview of International Reviews necessary for the implementation of the Agreement to be submitted to MOP4 in 2008'. Paragraph 4 of the AEWA Action Plan required that a number of International Reviews be produced before MOP4. One of these, the Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbird Species in the AEWA Region (document Inf. 3.1), was now available, but others had yet to be produced due to resource constraints.

138. Both the Technical Committee and Standing Committee had stressed the essential nature of these reports, and if the Contracting Parties were of the same opinion, additional resources would be required.

139. The UK, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States present, underlined that these reviews were mandatory under the Agreement. They provided the basis for assessing the performance of the Agreement and setting future priorities, particularly in view of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) target to significantly reduce biodiversity loss by 2010. The Secretariat's resource constraints had been recognized, and it was up to the Parties to find a solution in the coming budget discussion.

140. Switzerland agreed with this view, and added that, if possible, the work should be contracted-out before 2007/2008 so as to enable the reports to be assessed by the Technical Committee prior to MOP4.

Agenda item 19. Development of an International Partnership for Waterbird Population Assessments

141. Mr David Stroud, UK, speaking on behalf of the Technical Committee, referred to draft Resolution 3.6. 'Developing an international partnership for support of waterbird population assessments'. This resolution proposed developing a funding partnership for a range of outputs being produced by Wetlands International, and would provide a much better understanding of waterbird populations. The resolution reflected the value of the International Waterbird Census (IWC), but recognized its chronic under-funding to date and the consequent implications this had for AEWA. This situation required a collaborative approach to putting the key policy-relevant outputs of the IWC onto a sound financial footing.

142. The UK supported the resolution on behalf of the EU Member States present. The European Community, while agreeing that future funding of this work was an issue requiring attention, noted that it was not in a position to make a long-term commitment at the present MOP. Nevertheless, the EC was keen to explore possible mechanisms with the Executive Secretary.

143. There being no further comments, the Chair ruled that the draft Resolution was approved to be forwarded for formal adoption later in the Meeting.

Agenda item 20. Follow-up to the Global Flyway Conference and Climate Change and Waterbirds

144. The UK introduced draft Resolution 3.7 'Implementing the conclusions of the *Waterbirds Around the World* Conference'. The Edinburgh Declaration was appended to Resolution 3.7 and a summary booklet about the conference had been circulated to MOP3 participants. The conference recognized that, while progress has been made in waterbird conservation, many species and habitats remained at risk and required urgent action.

145. There being no comments from the floor, the Chair ruled that Resolution 3.7 was approved to go forward for adoption later in the Meeting.

146. The UK introduced draft Resolution 3.17 'Climate change and migratory waterbirds'. Various scientific reports had predicted climate change effects with potentially severe impacts on migratory waterbirds; for example, extreme warming in the Arctic and decreased rainfall in the Mediterranean basin. However, relatively few reviews had been conducted of the possible impacts of climate change on biodiversity. The UK had commissioned a recent review that showed more than 80% of species covered by CMS as being under threat from climate change impacts. Changes in distributions of migratory species were already occurring and barriers to migration had become more severe. Arctic and montane species were especially vulnerable. The AEWA Agreement text itself included no explicit reference to climate change issues, but it would be timely for the MOP to consider these and the responses that might be needed. The aim of draft Resolution 3.17 was therefore to initiate such consideration.

147. The Executive Secretary pointed out that certain tasks laid down for the Secretariat in draft Resolution 3.17 could have financial implications and asked that these be taken into account by the MOP3 Sessional Committee that would be discussing this text.

148. Switzerland raised concerns about the clarity of some parts of the text and considered that significant revision was required, particularly in relation to the resource implications raised by the Executive Secretary.

149. The Chair asked that these points be kept in mind by the Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters.

150. The UK assured the Meeting that the UK would itself take on much of the envisaged work, in support of the Agreement and in conformity with the importance that the UK Government attached to climate change. Such support would cover both scientific and advocacy issues.

151. Welcoming this assurance, the Chair of the Standing Committee nevertheless stressed that climate change also affected countries without the means to undertake collaborative research.

152. In response to a question from Kenya, the Executive Secretary underlined that the Secretariat could only undertake work to the extent that the necessary resources were made available.

Agenda item 21. Proposal for Amendments to the Annexes to the Agreement

153. Introducing this Agenda item, Mr Preben Clausen, speaking on behalf of the Technical Committee, recalled that at MOP2 discussion had arisen concerning possible amendments to Table 1 of the Agreement. These potential amendments related to two populations of Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, one population of Pintail *Anas acuta* and one population of Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*. MOP2 had agreed that there were some doubts about the status of these populations and that the lack of definition of 'long-term decline' posed a difficulty. Background information on the present status of these populations was contained in document MOP 3.31 'Status review of four populations of three duck species (Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and Pintail *Anas acuta*)'. Trends analysis data had been provided by Wetlands International, in line with the decision of the Technical Committee to use a 25-year run of data for such analyses. From the trends analysis for Mallard and Pintail the Technical Committee had concluded as follows:

- Mallard – Northwest European population: no long-term decline could be observed.
- Mallard – Northern Europe West Mediterranean population: there was no conclusive evidence for a long-term decline, but the situation was 'borderline' and should be kept under review.
- Pintail – Northwest European population: no long-term decline could be observed.

154. Therefore, the Technical Committee had determined that the two Mallard populations should remain in column C category 1 in Table 1 of the Agreement. The Pintail population should remain in column B of Table 1.

155. With regard to the Common Eider Baltic and Wadden Sea population, Mr Clausen, referred to document Inf. 3.11 'Status of the Baltic/Wadden Sea population of Common Eider (*Somateria m. mollissima*)'. The available data showed a recent increase in mortality in all age groups and reduced breeding success in Finland. The Technical Committee recommended that, pending the development and adoption of formal guidance called for in draft Resolution 3.3 'Developing guidelines for interpretation of criteria used in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan', a precautionary approach should be adopted and the population moved from column C category 1 to column B category 2d.

156. The Vice-Chair requested the Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters to take up further discussion of the issues raised.

157. Referring to documents MOP 3.16 'Proposal for New Species to be added to AEWA Annex 2', MOP 3.29 Rev.2 'Proposal for amendment of the Action Plan of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)', draft Resolution 3.8 'Amendment to the Annexes to the Agreement', and Inf. 3.1 'Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area', the Executive Secretary summarized the situation with regard to proposed amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of the Agreement. Unfortunately, the process followed in preparing these documents for submission to MOP3 had not been in conformity with Article X of the Agreement, which stipulated that any proposed amendments to the Agreement or its Annexes could only be submitted by a Contracting

Party and had to be circulated to Contracting Parties at least 150 days in advance of a MOP. The Secretariat took full responsibility for this oversight. The Depositary had advised that the provisions of Article X took precedence over any draft resolution on such matters. It was up to the MOP to determine whether it nevertheless wished to discuss the proposed amendments, taking into account the time and resources devoted to preparing the documents tabled.

158. The UK, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States present, considered that the AEWA Parties shared the responsibility of applying the Agreement's provisions. The matters raised by the Executive Secretary were indeed worthy of discussion by the MOP, but the EU wished to raise a number of general points that should also be taken into account. The Agreement had done well in developing its Contracting Party base thus far, but 2010 was approaching and now was the time for the Agreement to direct efforts towards implementation in pursuit of the WSSD biodiversity target. Taxonomic expansion of the Agreement at this stage, especially into the marine environment, could result in dilution of AEWA's core focus on waterbirds, and the EU suggested that it was not appropriate to be adding new species at this time. Much remained to be done to deliver on the core conservation priorities already contained in the Agreement's Action Plan. The emphasis should be on strengthening delivery, especially in the African region, taking into account that conservation status is deteriorating for more populations than those for which it is improving, by a ratio of almost 2:1. The question of AEWA's future focus could best be dealt with in the context of the proposed development of an AEWA Strategic Plan. Engaging with seabird conservation would be a departure for the Agreement, and the EU questioned whether the Agreement had the resources to deal with a range of entirely new stakeholders and legal frameworks and to spread itself even more thinly. Article X provided a clear timeframe for proposed amendments to the Agreement or its Annexes and departing from this could set an unfortunate precedent. Finally, the UK highlighted additional EU concerns relating to specific proposed amendments to the Action Plan and to Table 1 of the Action Plan.

159. Switzerland agreed that it was important to stick to the text of the Agreement, while being as flexible as possible in order to take the decisions needed to ensure the best conservation outcomes. As a member of the Technical Committee, Switzerland also recognized that it should have advised the Parties it represented in the Committee that this issue had arisen. Finally, Switzerland welcomed the chance to discuss in the Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters the detailed points raised by the UK on behalf of the EU Member States present.

160. The European Community supported the concerns raised by the UK on behalf of the EU Member States. There were very substantial issues at stake and it could not be emphasized strongly enough that the extremely short timeframe for consideration of the relevant documents made it very difficult, if not impossible, to reach a position on the proposals, some of which would have legal implications within the EU if adopted. It was important to ensure that preparatory procedures worked properly for future MOPs, especially with regard to the role of subsidiary bodies. The EC had some proposed amendments to draft Resolution 3.8 and would bring these forward to the Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters.

161. The Executive Secretary assured the Meeting that the '150 days' provision of Article X would be respected.

162. The Vice-Chair asked the Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters to take up discussion of the points raised by the UK/EU, Switzerland, EC and Executive Secretary.

Agenda item 22. Proposal for the Development of a Strategic Plan for the Agreement

163. The Secretariat introduced draft Resolution 3.9 'Development of a Strategic Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds' and document Inf. 3.2 'Draft Strategic Plan for CMS'. At the forthcoming CMS COP, a draft Strategic Plan for CMS would be under consideration. If adopted, it was proposed that the CMS Strategic Plan should be used as the basis for developing an AEWA Strategic Plan to be submitted for formal adoption at MOP4.

164. The Vice-Chair requested the Sessional Committee on Financial and Administrative Matters to take up this issue.

Agenda item 23. Draft Communication Strategy for the Agreement

165. The Secretariat briefly introduced document MOP 3.17 'Development of a Communication Strategy' and draft Resolution 3.10 'Communication Strategy for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)'. The process of developing a Communication Strategy had been started two years earlier with funds from the UK. Progress had been monitored by both the Technical Committee and Standing Committee, and the latter had approved the draft Strategy for forwarding to the MOP.

166. Ms Gwen van Boven, Consultant to the Secretariat, reported that the document was the result of a long consultative process involving Range States and many partners. The Strategy was intended for active use by the Contracting Parties and Secretariat to improve their communications work. Its overall aim was for "*the AEWA Secretariat to initiate, facilitate and to support communication through improved cooperation between its formal bodies and its Contracting Parties in their efforts to implement the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement*".

167. The objectives of the Strategy were to:

- Stimulate and increase effective internal communication
- Strengthen and develop mechanisms for effective external communication
- Build regional capacity for communication
- Increase knowledge-sharing

168. The Strategy foresaw monitoring/review procedures at different levels, including annual reports, a mid-term review and a final review to be submitted to the Standing Committee. Finally, the draft Strategy also contained a budget proposal, funding strategy and a four-year action plan for its implementation.

169. Madagascar entirely subscribed to the Communication Strategy but had three proposals:

(i) more attention should be given to promotion of external communication between the Secretariat and non-Party Range States
(ii) special emphasis should be placed on communications in the African region
(iii) cooperation with, and support from, the private sector should be strengthened with regard to communications activities, e.g. through sponsorship.

170. Mali supported Madagascar's view.

171. The UK, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States present, indicated that the EU coordination meetings had not yet had time to consider this issue.

172. Kenya conveyed its strong support for the draft Communication Strategy but suggested that the potential benefits of greater communications linkages within the CMS family should be further explored. Kenya also supported Madagascar's point that AEWA was relatively well known at national and global levels, but hardly known at all at local level. The Communication Strategy should be very clear on ways and means of communicating with community stakeholders.

173. The Executive Secretary reported that some discussion had already taken place with CMS, which did not yet have its own Communication Strategy. Further discussions would be held on this issue.

174. UNEP/CMS Secretariat agreed that a clear link with the CMS family should be added to the draft Strategy; such harmonization would be very helpful.

175. The Vice-Chair asked that all these points be taken up by the Sessional Committee on Financial and Administrative Matters.

Agenda item 24. Draft International Implementation Priorities (IIPs) 2006-2008

176. The Secretariat introduced document MOP 3.18 'Draft AEWA International Implementation Priorities for 2006-2008' and draft Resolution 3.11 'AEWA International Implementation Priorities for 2006-2008'. The list of IIPs had been established to assist donors and stakeholders in supporting implementation of the AEWA Action Plan. The list had last been modified by MOP2. Document MOP 3.18 contained revisions based on wide consultation and approved by the Technical Committee for forwarding to the MOP. Draft Resolution 3.11 called for adoption of the IIPs for the next triennium as contained in MOP 3.18, along with measures to support ongoing implementation and review of the IIPs.

177. There being no comments from the floor, the Vice-Chair asked the Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters to take up discussion of the documents tabled by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 25. Draft International Single Species Action Plans

178. The Secretariat introduced documents MOP 3.19, 3.20, 3.21, 3.22 and 3.23 and draft Resolution 3.12 'Adoption and implementation of International Single Species Action Plans'. Five draft Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) had been submitted for consideration by the MOP:

a) Light-bellied Brent Goose, East Canadian High Arctic population – *Branta bernicla hrota*

179. This SSAP was contained in document MOP 3.19 and had been compiled by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, UK. The final draft had been reviewed by experts, relevant Range States and the Technical Committee, and approved by the Standing Committee for submission to the MOP.

b) Northern Bald Ibis – *Geronticus eremita*

180. This SSAP was contained in MOP 3.20 and covered the global range of this Critically Endangered species. The Action Plan had been compiled mainly by SEO, the BirdLife Partner in Spain, with other expert input. The final draft had been reviewed by experts, relevant Range States, the Technical Committee, and approved by the Standing Committee for submission to the MOP.

c) Ferruginous Duck – *Aythya nyroca*

181. This SSAP, contained in document MOP 3.21, had been a joint initiative of AEWA and CMS, covered the species' global range and had been compiled by BirdLife International. The final draft had been reviewed by experts, relevant Range States, the Technical Committee, and approved by the Standing Committee for submission to the MOP.

d) White-headed Duck – *Oxyura leucocephala*

182. This SSAP, contained in document MOP 3.22, had been a joint initiative of the European Commission AEWA and CMS, covered this Endangered species' global range and had been compiled by BirdLife International. The final draft had been reviewed by experts, relevant Range States, the Technical Committee, and approved by the Standing Committee for submission to the MOP. At EU level, the plan had been agreed by the Ornis Committee.

e) Corncrake – *Crex crex*

183. This SSAP, contained in document MOP 3.23, had been a joint initiative of the European Commission, AEWA and CMS, covered the species' global range and had been compiled by BirdLife International. The final draft had been reviewed by experts, relevant Range States, the Technical Committee and approved by the Standing Committee for submission to the MOP. At EU level, the plan had been agreed by the Ornis Committee.

184. Draft Resolution 3.12 provided for the adoption of the five SSAPs and urged Contracting Parties to implement both these Action Plans and the three SSAPs previously adopted by the MOP.

185. Two more SSAPs were in the pipeline, namely an update of the SSAP for Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) and a new SSAP for Maccoa Duck (*Oxyura maccoa*). It was intended that the final drafts would be circulated during 2006. Draft Resolution 3.12 proposed mandating the Standing Committee to adopt these, and other future SSAPs, intersessionally, on behalf of the MOP.

186. The Vice-Chair asked the Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters to take up a proposal from Denmark for a technical amendment to the SSAP for Corncrake.

187. Syria reported that it had begun to implement measures for the conservation of Northern Bald Ibis, including designation of the species' main site as a specially protected area, the development of monitoring (including a cooperative initiative to implement satellite tracking), the cessation of hunting at the site, and public awareness activities at national and local levels. In general, the SSAP seemed to be based on 2002 data, but there had been some improvements in the situation since then and certain amendments were therefore needed. Syria would submit proposed amendments to the Secretariat, recommending that in the coming years efforts should be focused on satellite tracking and encouraging the local community to join in site monitoring and protection work.

188. Morocco considered it was the Range State to which the SSAP for Northern Bald Ibis was most relevant, and would also submit written observations to the Secretariat.

189. France referred to some minor errors in the SSAP for Corncrake and indicated that these would be raised in the Sessional Committee. The species was fully protected in France.

190. The UK, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States present, had a few comments to make on the draft Resolution; these would be introduced in the Sessional Committee and related to consistency with previous MOP decisions.

191. Kenya enquired how long it would take for the SSAP for Maccoa Duck to be finalized, urging speedy completion given that the species' status was deteriorating rapidly.

192. The Secretariat reported that the final draft of the SSAP for Maccoa Duck had recently been received and would be circulated as soon as possible. The SSAP could be endorsed intersessionally by the Standing Committee, if so desired by the MOP, through adoption of draft Resolution 3.12. Otherwise, endorsement would have to wait until MOP4.

Agenda item 26. Institutional Arrangements

a) Headquarters Agreement and Juridical Personality

193. Germany reported that the Headquarters Agreement had been signed by the Government of Germany, CMS and the UN in 2002 and entered into force in June 2004 when all signatories signalled that the necessary formal procedures had been completed. Twelve UN institutions with 600 staff were now based in Bonn. In 2003 the German Government had decided that the former parliamentary buildings in Bonn would be handed over to the UN in April 2006 and would thenceforth be known as the 'UN

Campus'. The AEWA Secretariat would also be moving to the new premises. Two key Ministries for AEWA (Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, and Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development) were still located in Bonn, close to the Campus.

b) Standing Committee

194. The Secretariat recalled that the Standing Committee and its current composition had been established at MOP2 through Resolution 2.6. The term of office of current members was due to end at MOP4, but if any members wished to step down in the meantime there would have to be an interim election.

c) Technical Committee

(i) Institutional Arrangements

195. The Secretariat introduced document MOP 3.24 'Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee'. This contained suggested amendments to the *modus operandi* of the Technical Committee, notably to the regional divisions of the Agreement Area for Technical Committee purposes, as well as to the Rules of Procedure relating to meetings of the Committee. Appendix 1 of MOP 3.24 defined the proposed new divisions of the Agreement Area, while Appendix 2 listed regional representatives and alternates, with their corresponding terms of office. Appendix 3 set out the proposed revisions to the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Technical Committee. Draft Resolution 3.13 'Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee' provided for the adoption of the proposed amendments.

196. The UK, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States present, appreciated the proposals made, but had concerns about the proposed 'political' division of Europe, which appeared to set an undesirable precedent. It suggested that the division of Europe should be on a geographical basis as for the other regions in the Agreement Area. Other points would be drawn to the attention of the Sessional Committee on Financial and Administrative Matters.

197. Morocco reported that the North African Technical Committee Alternate representative had retired, resulting in an additional vacancy.

198. Chad pointed out that it should be listed in Central Africa rather than in West Africa.

199. CIC indicated that it had submitted a proposed amendment in writing to the Secretariat.

200. The Executive Secretary asked that nominations to fill vacancies for regional representatives and alternates should be made to the Secretariat. A decision regarding the European regions would be postponed, pending resolution of the point raised by the UK/EU, to be dealt with in the relevant Sessional Committee.

(ii) Proposal to reduce costs related to Technical Committee meetings

201. The Secretariat introduced document MOP 3.25 'Proposal to reduce costs linked to meetings of the Technical Committee'. This proposed reducing the number of Technical Committee meetings from three to two per triennium and restricting the financial support available to delegates. These two measures would together save some USD 40,000 during the period 2006-2008.

d) Cooperation with other bodies and processes

202. The Secretariat reported that AEWA had concluded, together with CMS, a Joint Work Programme with Wetlands International and another with the Ramsar Convention, both of which were tabled as information documents (Inf. 3.3 and 3.4, respectively). The possibility of developing synergies with UNCCD was also being explored. Similarly AEWA hoped to draft a Memorandum of Cooperation with

OMPO, which was active in promoting the implementation of the Agreement in West Africa and Eastern Europe.

Agenda item 27. Financial and administrative matters

a) Income and expenditure 2003-2005

203. The Secretariat introduced document MOP 3.26 'Report on Income and Expenditure 2003-2005. USD 1.4 million had been received for the core budget from Contracting Party membership contributions, with only USD 140,000 still outstanding. The income from new Parties had been some USD 60,000 less than expected, due to a slower-than-predicted rate of new accessions. Voluntary contributions of USD 934,679 had been received and these were greatly appreciated.

204. Regarding expenditure, salary costs were considerably higher than foreseen in the budget due to dollar exchange-rate losses. Costs related to meetings and travel had been reduced, mainly by securing additional voluntary contributions.

205. For the triennium as a whole, there was a projected excess of expenditure over income of USD 168,000. The reserve had been reduced to USD 150,000 to cover this deficit.

b) Proposal for determining priorities for financial support by AEWA

206. The Secretariat introduced document MOP 3.27 'Guidelines for determining priorities for AEWA financial support', which had been prepared by the Technical Committee.

207. At the 7th plenary session the revised 'Guidelines for determining priorities for AEWA Financial Support' (document MOP 3.27 Rev.1 Corr.1) were adopted by the Meeting without further Amendment.

c) Draft Budget proposal 2006-2008

208. The Secretariat introduced document MOP 3.28 'Draft budget proposal for 2006-2008' and the associated draft Resolution 3.14 'Financial and Administrative Matters'.

209. Due to a loss of 20-25% of the purchasing power of the US dollar, the draft budget foresaw increased financial contributions from Parties but no significant increase in activities. The draft budget did not cover implementation of the Communication Strategy or following up on the proposed draft Resolutions dealing with avian flu and climate change issues.

d) Private sector fundraising for the UNEP/CMS family

210. The Secretariat introduced document MOP 3.30 'Private sector fundraising for the UNEP/CMS family'.

211. The UNEP/CMS Secretariat, as the lead body on this matter, reported that a fundraising strategy had been adopted at the last CMS Standing Committee meeting and that an association, 'Friends of CMS', established under German law and in full conformity with UN procedures, was about to be inaugurated to take this matter forward. It was intended to implement concrete projects in cooperation with AEWA, EUROBATS and ASCOBANS.

212. There being no comments from the floor, the Vice-Chair asked the Sessional Committee on Financial and Administrative Matters to take up discussion of the documents tabled by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 28. Future Development of the Agreement

a) Agreement/MoU on Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian region

213. The Executive Secretary introduced document Inf. 3.5 'Assessment of the merits of a CMS instrument covering migratory raptors and owls in the African-Eurasian region'. At MOP2, there had been a request for AEWA to look at other groups of birds. In the light of Inf. 3.5 it would be appropriate to reflect on the long-term requirements of AEWA and CMS, given that there was potential for the development of multiple Agreements dealing with migratory birds.

b) Agreement/MoU for the Central Asian Flyway

214. The Executive Secretary introduced the issues covered in document Inf. 3.6 'New Delhi statement on the meeting to conclude and endorse the proposed Central Asian Flyway action plan to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats'. The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) involved 30 countries, 16 of which were AEWA Range States and 14 non-Range States. A workshop had been held in India with support from CMS, AEWA, Wetlands International and other partners, but no decision had been reached on whether to take forward intergovernmental cooperation for the CAF through a new CMS Agreement or through expansion of AEWA. The CMS had undertaken to organize a new intergovernmental meeting of the relevant countries in 2006. The outcome of this would be reviewed at MOP4.

215. UNEP/CMS Secretariat presented a report providing further details on progress to date and a summary of the main pending issues. The report would be submitted to the Secretariat in writing. The CMS Secretariat appealed to interested governments and international organizations to provide financial support for the organization of the proposed intergovernmental meeting in 2006, as well as for supporting the Interim Coordination Mechanism of the CAF.

216. Uzbekistan, speaking as the only AEWA Contracting Party in the Central Asian region, and one of the two AEWA Contracting Parties in the Central Asian Flyway, said it hoped to see other countries in the region joining the Agreement in the near future. For this reason, Uzbekistan had submitted a proposal in accordance with Article X of the Agreement for extension of the AEWA Agreement Area. Uzbekistan was convinced that development of an overlapping instrument would be counterproductive and regretted that its proposal had not received the support of the Standing Committee and was consequently withdrawn. Uzbekistan assured the Meeting that it would continue to work constructively with other CAF countries and would resubmit its proposal for consideration at MOP4.

217. The Russian Federation believed that the position of most other countries in the CAF region was to support extension of AEWA as the most suitable and effective way forward, and regretted that this option had been significantly delayed.

218. Armenia fully supported the positions of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation and was disappointed that it had not been possible to implement the option favoured by most countries in the CAF region.

219. The UNEP/CMS Secretariat acknowledged the support shown for extension of the AEWA Agreement Area. This was one possibility but CMS was not in a position to decide this through either the AEWA MOP or CMS COP. Such a decision would have to be taken through an intergovernmental meeting of all CAF countries.

220. The Executive Secretary reported on advice received from the Depositary, which underlined an important difference between extension of an existing CMS Agreement and the development of a new Agreement. The MOP of an existing Agreement was able to decide to extend the Agreement Area.

221. Kenya reminded the Meeting that Africa was also a stakeholder in this issue. The primary mandate of AEWA was to develop measures for the conservation of waterbirds in the Agreement Area. The

problem seemed to be a lack of adequate coordination between AEWA and CMS. There was a need to find an acceptable way forward, whether by extension of AEWA or a new Agreement to cover the CAF.

222. Germany urged that there should be a wider debate on the way forward, taking into consideration that proposals might be raised in future for extension of AEWA to cover, for example, the East Asian Flyway or migratory passerines. A clear strategy for AEWA and the CMS family was needed.

223. Armenia suggested that legal advice might be sought from UNEP.

224. The Vice-Chair considered that the key issues should now be clear to all delegates. There appeared to be fundamental issues that would need to be taken forward in the Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters. Unless there were doubts about the legal advice received from the Depositary, this should be taken as a basis for discussions.

Agenda item 29. Reports of Sessional Committees

4th Plenary Session (24 October)

225. Germany, as Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the Committee's first report. The credentials of 18 Contracting Parties had been accepted. The Credentials presented by four Parties were not accepted, while those of a further six Parties were considered 'borderline' cases requiring further clarification. Two Parties had recently submitted credentials that the Committee had not yet been able to evaluate formally. No credentials had yet been received from the remaining Parties. Finally, credentials had also been submitted by a number of non-Contracting Parties.

226. The Chair underlined that it was vital all remaining Parties submit their credentials as soon as possible and in time for the Committee to assess prior to its next report on 25 October.

6th Plenary Session (25 October)

227. The Chair of the Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters reported that the following documents had been completed and that these would be submitted to plenary session, as revised versions where necessary, for adoption by the MOP: Res. 3.1, Res. 3.2, Res. 3.3, Res. 3.4, Res. 3.6 and Res. 3.7. The Committee had established a working group on Res. 3.17, led by the UK, and a drafting group to prepare a draft resolution (Res. 3.18) on avian influenza.

228. The Chair of the Sessional Committee on Financial and Administrative Matters reported that the group had so far focused on the Agreement's budget. The Secretariat had introduced the budget-related documentation (covering income and expenditure, priorities for financial support and priorities for private-sector fundraising) and had answered questions from delegates on these matters, which would be addressed in plenary under Agenda item 27.

7th Plenary Session (27 October)

229. The Chair of the Sessional Committee on Scientific and Technical Matters reported on the Committee's work on 25 October. The Committee had dealt with the following Agenda items and draft Resolutions:

- Agenda item 21, Res. 3.8 'Amendments to the Annexes to the Agreement' – a revised text had been approved for submission to plenary
- Agenda item 24, Res. 3.11 'AEWA International Implementation Priorities for 2006-2008' – a revised text had been approved for submission to plenary
- Agenda items 25, Res. 3.12 'Adoption and implementation of International Single Species Action Plans' – a revised text had been approved for submission to plenary

- Res. 3.17 'Climate Change and migratory waterbirds' – a revised text had been approved for submission to plenary
- Res. 3.18 'Avian influenza' – a draft text had been discussed and revisions proposed; the Committee required one further meeting to agree a text for submission to plenary.

230. The Chair of the Sessional Committee on Financial and Administrative Matters reported on the Committee's deliberations on 25 October. The Committee had finalized its work on Agenda items 22, 23, 26 b) and 26 c), and 27 a), b), d). The respective documents, as amended by the Committee, had been circulated for the plenary to consider. The Committee had not yet completed its work on Agenda item 27 c) 'Draft budget proposal'. The Committee would be meeting shortly to finalize this item for submission to the plenary.

231. The Chair of the Credentials Committee presented the Committee's second and final report. Since the first report, presented to plenary on 24 October, the credentials of 8 additional Contracting Parties had been accepted; the credentials of 6 Contracting Parties had been determined as not acceptable by the Committee; 10 Contracting Parties had not yet submitted their credentials.

232. In addition, the Committee had received credentials from some non-Contracting Parties.

233. The Executive Secretary announced that the Secretariat had just received a written proposal for a new Resolution concerning the Addis Ababa Principles. This had been prepared as an outcome of the side event held on this issue. The text would be distributed shortly as draft Resolution 3.19.

Agenda item 30. Adoption of Resolutions and Amendments to the Annexes of the Agreement

Res. 3.1 Rev.1 'Closure of the Register of International Projects'

234. The Meeting adopted the text without further amendment.

Res. 3.2 Rev.1 'Procedures to Review Biogeographic Limits of Waterbird Populations'

235. The Meeting adopted the text without further amendment.

Res. 3.3 Rev.1 'Developing Guidelines for Interpretation of Criteria used in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan'

236. The Meeting adopted the text without further amendment.

Res. 3.4 Rev.1 'Submission of National Reports to MOP3 and MOP4 and Reports on the Phase-out of Lead Shot in Wetlands'

237. In response to questions raised by the UK, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States present, and by Mauritius, the Secretariat explained that Appendix 1 to the Resolution included information received by the Secretariat up to 17 October. The Chair asked the Secretariat to update the Table as necessary for the final version to be published in the Proceedings of the MOP.

238. The Meeting adopted the text, subject to updating of Appendix 1.

Res. 3.5 Rev.2 'Development of an on-line National Report Format'

239. Switzerland suggested an improved formulation for the third preambular paragraph: "*Taking into account* the results from the analysis of difficulties encountered by certain Contracting Parties in delivering their national reports (see Resolution 3.4)"

240. The Meeting adopted the text subject to inclusion of the editorial amendment proposed by Switzerland.

Res. 3.6 Rev.1 'Developing an International Partnership for Support of Waterbird Population Estimates'

241. The Meeting adopted the text without further amendment.

Res. 3.7 'Implementing the Conclusions of the *Waterbirds Around the World* Conference'

242. The Meeting adopted the original text of this Resolution without amendment.

Res. 3.8. Rev.2 'Amendments to the Annexes to the Agreement'

243. The Meeting adopted this text without further amendment.

Res. 3.9 'Development of a Strategic Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)'

244. The Meeting adopted the original text of this Resolution without amendment.

Res. 3.10 'Communication Strategy for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)'

245. The Chair noted that, while there had been no proposals for amendments to the text of the Resolution itself, the Communication Strategy had been updated to reflect input received during the Meeting and re-circulated as document MOP 3.17 Rev.1.

246. The Meeting adopted the original text of this Resolution without amendment.

Res. 3.11 Rev.1 'AEWA International Implementation Priorities for 2006-2008'

247. The Meeting adopted this text without further amendment.

Res. 3.12 Rev.1 'Adoption and Implementation of International Single Species Action Plans'

248. The CIC made a statement to the Meeting concerning the steps it believed necessary for underpinning the credibility of the Action Plans through adequate follow-up, notably with regard to implementation. The statement was submitted in writing to the Secretariat.

249. In response to a question from the Chair of the Technical Committee, the UK proposed removing the square brackets around the words resources permitting in the sixth operative paragraph.

250. The Meeting adopted the text, subject to the inclusion of this editorial amendment.

Res. 3.13 Rev.2 'Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee'

251. With regard to Appendix II, the Executive Secretary reported that the Northern Africa region had nominated Mr Hamza from Libya to serve as Representative on the AEWA Technical Committee. An Alternate would be nominated in due course.

252. Uganda reported that the Eastern Africa region had decided to nominate Mr Olivier Nasirwa as Representative and Mr Archilles Byaruhanga, Uganda as Alternate.

253. On behalf of the Western Africa region, Mali reported that Mr Alfousseini Séméga, Mali, had been proposed as Representative and Mr John H. Mshelbwala, Nigeria, as Alternate.

254. In response to a question from the Syrian Arab Republic, the Executive Secretary recalled that the Middle East was grouped with Central Asia. It was up to countries in the region to decide among themselves who should be nominated. Currently, Dr Elena Kreuzberg, Uzbekistan, had been nominated as Representative.

255. The text of the Resolution was adopted without further amendment, subject to inclusion of the above updates to Appendix I.

Res. 3.14 Rev.2 'Financial and Administrative Matters'

256. The UK noted that there were typographical errors in operative paragraph 12, which should have read:

Requests the Standing Committee, taking into account advice from the Technical Committee, and in consultation with the Executive Secretary, to review, if necessary, the priorities set out in paragraph 11 above, except the GEF project, which remains the top priority should an unanticipated situation arise or a funding deficit materialise;

257. France, Germany and the UK also considered that the financial contributions of new Contracting Parties should appear in future as part of AEWA's core funding. For MOP4 the budget should be organized differently so that it would be easier to obtain an overview 'at a glance'. The budget now being tabled represented a 20% increase in compulsory contributions, which was far removed from the budget rules applied nationally by Contracting Parties and would be difficult for delegates to justify to their governments. France, Germany and the UK hoped that a significant part of the increase would be devoted to activities on the ground and that there would be the clearest possible reporting at MOP4 on the commitments made within the 2006-2008 budget. France, Germany and the UK wished to thank the Secretariat for working under difficult conditions to redraft the budget during the Meeting.

258. The Chair of the Sessional Committee on Financial and Administrative Matters thanked all those who had contributed to the Committee's work. A spirit of compromise had ruled and a very positive result had been reached. The documents tabled for adoption provided the maximum possible clarity and transparency and set a course that was clearly oriented to the future.

259. The European Community, referring to Appendix II, requested that "EU" be changed to "European Community". It should also be clearly indicated, as in previous versions of the text, that the EC contribution would be 2.5%, in line with the standard practice for contributions to UNEP and UNEP-related conventions/agreements.

260. The text was adopted, subject to the inclusion of the above amendments.

Res. 3.15 'Date, Venue and Funding of the Fourth Session of the Meeting of the Parties'

261. Wetlands International proposed that the first operative paragraph be amended to read:

Decides that the Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP4) shall take place before the end of 2008, and urges the Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to ensure that MOP4 takes place after the Tenth Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

262. During discussion, with contributions from Switzerland, UK, UNEP/CMS Secretariat and the Executive Secretary, it was agreed that the key point was to ensure adequate liaison between the AEWA, CMS and Ramsar Secretariats. The Chair requested the Secretariat to incorporate an appropriate amendment reflecting the spirit of the interventions made.

263. Switzerland was concerned that in the absence of a host country, it would not make sense to adopt the second operative paragraph.

264. Madagascar announced, that while it was not yet an AEWA Contracting Party, the ratification process should be completed by the end of the year, and Madagascar would be honoured to host the Fourth Meeting of Parties in 2008. This statement was greeted by acclamation from the floor.

265. The Chair warmly thanked and congratulated Madagascar on behalf of the Meeting and recalled that arrangements for MOP4 would be dealt with in more detail under Agenda item 31.

266. The text was adopted, subject to the inclusion by the Secretariat of an amendment to capture the spirit of discussion on operative paragraph 1, and the insertion of Madagascar in operative paragraph 2.

Res. 3.16 'Tribute to the Organisers'

267. The Meeting adopted the original text of this Resolution by acclamation.

Res. 3.17 Rev.2 Corr.1 'Climate Change and Migratory Waterbirds'

268. The Meeting adopted the text of this Resolution without further amendment.

Res. 3.18 Rev.2 'Avian Influenza'

269. The Meeting adopted the text of this Resolution without further amendment.

270. France proposed that the Meeting's deliberations on the issue of avian influenza be summarised in a press release. AEWA had a clear role in communicating objective technical information, with a focus on migratory waterbirds. Senegal supported this proposal, referring to contradictory and alarming reports that had appeared in the national and international media over recent days.

271. The Chair requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a press release in conjunction with interested delegations.

Res. 3.19 'Implementing the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity'

272. The Chair recalled that this was a new draft Resolution submitted as a direct output of a side event held in association with the MOP and coordinated by CIC with support from FACE, the EC and AEWA.

273. CIC introduced the draft text and suggested inclusion of an additional paragraph, concerning the single species action plan for the Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), as agreed by the Technical Sessional Committee on 25 October 2005:

"In order to secure the credibility of the work done by AEWA on the single species action plans – in particular the draft plan on the Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), which has now been in process for almost 10 years – CIC is conscious about the follow up, and refers to Recommendation 2.1 from MOP2. CIC recommends that information on the status of this plan is published together with the output from TC6 and MOP3" (see Annex V).

274. The Meeting adopted the text of this Resolution without amendments. The new paragraph suggested by CIC was decided to be left in this report and a short report on the status of the species action plan in question to be appended.

Res. 3.20 'Request to the Government of the Republic of Senegal'

275. The Chair reported that this was a new draft Resolution submitted by Senegal, on behalf of the group of African participants that had met earlier in the day and requesting the Republic of Senegal to take measures on behalf of all African states.

276. The EC fully supported the goal of strengthening links with NEPAD and the African Union. However, it would be helpful if the first operative paragraph could be amended as follows to take account of legal considerations: "Requests the Government of Senegal to approach the African Union to support African Contracting Parties and to enhance regional coordination and to assess the legal aspects of a possible ratification in view of the provisions of the CMS and the Agreement". Furthermore, in the third preambular paragraph, the words "with regard to biodiversity" should be inserted after "*Conscious* of the link".

277. The Meeting adopted the original text of this Resolution, subject to inclusion of the above amendments.

Decision 3.1 'Regarding the Executive Secretary of AEWA'

278. UNEP/CMS: reiterated the statement to the Meeting made by Mr Bakary Kante on behalf of UNEP's Executive Director on 24 October.

279. The Chair asked the Vice-Chair to coordinate a small discussion sub-group, including the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Chair of the Sessional Committee on Financial and Administrative Matters, Germany, Switzerland, UK, and UNEP, to finalize proposed amendments to the text.

280. The Vice-Chair reported back from the group with proposed amendments to the second preambular paragraph, deletion of the third and fourth preambular paragraphs and insertion of a new preambular paragraph:

Noting with great appreciation that UNEP has informed the Third Meeting of the Parties that active steps are being undertaken for the recruitment of an Executive Secretary for AEWA and that therefore this process shall be finalized as soon as possible in line with UN recruitment procedures,

Acknowledging with great appreciation the successes the AEWA Secretariat reached so far, as already reflected in the report of the Chair of the Standing Committee to the Third Meeting of the Parties and in Resolution 3.16 which paid tribute to the organizers of the Third Meeting of the Parties.

281. The Meeting adopted the text of the Decision, subject to inclusion of the above amendments.

Agenda item 31. Date and venue of the Fourth Meeting of the Parties

282. The Meeting formally endorsed, by acclamation, Madagascar as the host of the Fourth Meeting of Parties (MOP4). Madagascar thanked the Meeting for its support, looked forward to working with the AEWA Secretariat and Parties and ensured participants of Madagascar's wholehearted commitment to making MOP4 a success.

283. The Chair requested that, in line with discussions on Resolution 3.15, consultations be held between the Government of Madagascar, AEWA, CMS, Wetlands International, and the Ramsar Convention, in order to arrange a mutually convenient date in 2008.

Agenda item 32. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

284. The draft Report of the 1st and 2nd Plenary sessions, held on Sunday, 23 October 2005, were adopted by the Meeting without amendment.

285. The draft Report of the 3rd and 4th Plenary sessions, held on Monday 24 October 2005, were adopted by the Meeting without amendment.

286. With regard to the draft Report of the 5th and 6th Plenary sessions, held on Tuesday 24 October 2005, Morocco pointed out that paragraph number 197 should refer to the Alternate, not to the Representative. UNEP/CMS Secretariat referred to a proposal for an additional paragraph to be inserted after paragraph number 92. The text of the new paragraph, which had been handed to the Secretariat, was read to the Meeting. The Report of the 5th and 6th Plenary sessions was adopted subject to the inclusion of these amendments, and incorporation of various editorial corrections already submitted in writing to the rapporteurs.

Agenda item 33. Other matters

287. There were no other matters raised by the Chair or from the floor.

Agenda item 34. Closure of the Meeting

(a) Closure of business session

288. The Chair and Vice-Chair made closing remarks, reflecting on the positive conclusions of the Meeting and thanking all participants, the Secretariat, interpreters and translators and especially the Senegalese hosts.

289. Angola thanked Senegal and the AEWA Secretariat and announced that Angola would be launching the procedure for accession to the Agreement in the near future. This announcement was greeted by acclamation.

(b) Closing ceremony

290. The closing ceremony was presided over by His Excellency Mr Thierno Lo, Minister of Environment and Nature Protection, Republic of Senegal.

291. Closing speeches were delivered by the Chairman and by the Executive Secretary, both of whom underlined their gratitude to the Republic of Senegal, and in particular to the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection and the National Parks Directorate, for its enormous contribution to AEWA through hosting MOP3.

292. In the name of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and Government of Senegal, the Minister of Environment and Nature Protection made his closing address. He referred to the President of the Republic's great interest in the Meeting's deliberations, notably those concerning avian influenza – an issue of special importance to Senegal given the significant economic value of ecotourism in and around wetlands. The Republic of Senegal was grateful to AEWA for having entrusted the country with organizing the Meeting of Parties and thanked participants for the high quality of the work completed. It was nevertheless important to look beyond immediate outcomes and towards implementation of the AEWA Action Plan, especially in Africa. In this respect, the Government of Senegal reiterated its thanks to the Government of the Netherlands for its ongoing support. Thanks were also due to international governmental and non-governmental organizations that had worked for the success of the Meeting. In formally declaring the Third Meetings of Parties closed, the Minister invited all those involved with AEWA to continue consolidating the international partnership and transboundary cooperation required to ensure the long-term conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

ANNEX 1

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISION 3.1

Resolutions

3.1 Closure of the Register of International Projects…… 41

3.2 Procedures to Review Biogeographical Limits of Waterbirds Populations.…… 42

3.3 Developing Guidelines for Interpretation of Criteria Used in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan …….. 43

3.4 Submission of National Reports to MOP3 and MOP4 and Reports on the Phase out of Lead Shot in Wetlands…… 45

3.5 Development of an Online National Report Format ……... 48

3.6 Developing an International Partnership for Support of Waterbird Population Assessments 49

3.7 Implementing the Conclusions of the *Waterbirds around the World* Conference …….. 52

3.8 Amendments to the Annexes to the Agreement …….. 58

3.9 Development of a Strategic Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).……... 60

3.10 Communication Strategy for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)…….. 61

3.11 AEWA International Implementation Priorities for 2006-2008……. 96

3.12 Adoption and Implementation of International Single Species Action Plans …… 114

3.13 Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee …… 115

3.14 Financial and Administrative Matters ……. 123

3.15 Date, Venue and Funding of the fourth Session of the Meeting of the Parties ……... 136

3.16 Tribute to the Organisers ……. 137

3.17 Climate Change and Migratory Waterbirds…… 138

3.18 Avian Influenza ……... 141

3.19 Implementing the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.……. 144

3.20 Request to the Government of the Republic of Senegal……. 145

Decision

3.1 Regarding the Executive Secretary of AEWA……. 146

RESOLUTION 3.1

CLOSURE OF THE REGISTER OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Recalling Resolution 1.5 on the establishment of a register of international projects, which sought to record those projects where Parties, Range States and other partners were working collaboratively to help take forward the objectives of the Agreement,

Noting that until now the rate of submission of projects for inclusion in the register has been very low,

Aware that in the light of the large number of projects in the Agreement area with very dynamic timetables keeping the register up to date status is a prohibitively complicated task,

Further aware that the register is largely out of date and has not fulfilled its intended purpose,

Noting the recommendation of the Technical Committee from its 6th meeting to close the register of international projects,

Further noting that the online national report format, which is being proposed for development, will entirely replace the functions of the register.

The Meeting of the Parties:

Decides to close the register of international projects.

RESOLUTION 3.2

PROCEDURES TO REVIEW BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LIMITS OF WATERBIRD POPULATIONS

Recalling Resolution 2.1 which, *inter alia*, called upon the Technical Committee to provide clarification on the procedures used to delimit biogeographical populations of waterbirds,

Welcoming the Committee's conclusions in AEWA/MOP 3.12, in particular the need for a clear audit of information and assumptions used to define biogeographic populations; the value of integrating these assessments with analyses of the results from waterbird ringing; and the desirability of bringing this information together in the form of flyway atlases so as to provide international contextual information for Contracting Parties and those responsible for the conservation and management of waterbirds and their habitats,

Stressing the importance of robust procedures for defining and evaluating the limits of biogeographical populations, given their importance as practical units for the conservation management of migratory waterbirds, and

Recognising the value of genetic research as an aid to the delimitation of biogeographical populations,

Noting that past work to define waterbird populations has largely been undertaken by Wetlands International Waterbird Specialist Groups operating voluntarily, and that further significant work will require resourcing.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Requests* Wetlands International and its Waterbird Specialist Groups, in consultation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission, in their support to the Agreement, resources permitting, to continue to assess the limits of biogeographical populations of migratory waterbirds, to clearly document the assumptions underpinning such assessments, and to forward all the relevant information to the Secretariat which will transmit it for assessment by the Technical Committee;

2. *Considers* that it is desirable that the assumptions underlying the definition of individual biogeographical waterbird populations are reviewed periodically, ideally at intervals of no more than nine years, so that these units of practical conservation management continue to be defined so as best to reflect contemporary knowledge;

3. *Further requests* Wetlands International and its Waterbird Specialist Groups, working with the Technical Committee, to prioritise which waterbird taxa would benefit from an early review of the limits of their populations in the light of recent data and information, resources permitting, and to bring this assessment to MoP4;

4. *Requests* Wetlands International to work with the Secretariat to assess the extent of necessary resources needed to facilitate the future review of waterbird population definitions, and to seek to locate these; and

5. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties and donor organisations to help provide necessary financial means to facilitate this task.

RESOLUTION 3.3

DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETATION OF CRITERIA USED IN TABLE 1 OF THE AEWA ACTION PLAN

Recalling Resolution 2.1 and the call of the Meeting of the Parties upon the Technical Committee to develop guidance for the interpretation of the term "significant long-term decline" in the context of Table 1 of the AWEA Action Plan,

Noting that there are more criteria used to classify species in various categories in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan for whose application no clear guidance exists.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the guidance presented to MOP3 by the Technical Committee on the interpretation of the term "significant long-term decline" (attached to this resolution as Appendix 1) in the context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan;

2. *Calls upon* the Technical Committee to develop guidance for interpretation of other criteria used in Table 1 of the Action Plan, notably:

- the degree of concentration on a small number of specific sites at any stage of annual cycle;
- the dependence on a habitat type which is under severe threat; and
- the extent of extreme fluctuations in population size or trend.

Appendix 1

Guidance for interpretation of the term "significant long-term decline" of waterbird populations

Definition

A population in 'significant long-term decline' is one where the best available data, information or assessments indicate that it has declined by at least 25% in numbers or range over a period of 25 years or 7.5 generations, whichever is the longer.

Guidance for the application of this definition

1. Where there are only poor quantitative assessments of trends at the international scale, international trends should be assessed on the basis of best expert knowledge and other available information bearing in mind the scale of decline indicated in the definition above.

2. Where one biogeographical population shows different trends in different countries, a decline of at least 25% in numbers or range over a period of 25 years or 7.5 generations in over half the countries for which information is available indicates that the population is in significant long-term decline. If for certain populations information is available for a period of more than 25 years this would be preferred.

3. Trend information for biogeographical populations at international scales is not always available over 25 year periods or 7.5 generations. In such situations, equivalent rates of decline may be used over shorter periods, but not shorter than 9 years, and based on a sustained decline of at least 1 % per year.

4. The delimitation of decline rates resulting from natural fluctuations should be based on the best expert knowledge, including information on the availability of suitable habitats.

5. Care is needed in applying this definition to monitoring data uncritically. There may be instances where a change of a population's range or distribution results in a decrease in numbers of a population counted, as a consequence of a greater proportion of the population now occurring in areas where there is less monitoring. Lower thresholds may be appropriate for decreasing range where it is accompanied by population decrease. Raw count data will always need expert interpretation.

6. The geometric mean of population size ranges should generally be taken as the basis of population trend calculations. Following IUCN Red List criteria definitions, generation length is the average generation length of parents of the current population. Each significant long-term decline revealed by the above-mentioned calculations will be examined, analysed and approved by the Technical Committee.

Where the size of a population is known to be low (<100,000), expert judgments as to trend status should be undertaken on precautionary basis. This is especially important given recent findings of a low genetic variation of a number of waterbird populations - the implication being that the effective population size is much (possibly by a factor of 10) smaller than observed population size. In these cases, a population may become long-term unviable (owing to vulnerability to changing environmental events) at a higher population sizes than previously thought.

RESOLUTION 3.4

SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS TO MOP3 AND MOP4 AND REPORTS ON THE PHASE OUT OF LEAD SHOT IN WETLANDS

Pursuant to Article V (1.c) of the Agreement that obligates Parties to submit national reports on the implementation of the Agreement,

Recalling Resolution 1.3 that established a triennial national report format and urged all Contracting Parties to prepare and submit national reports to the Second Meeting of the Parties,

Further recalling paragraph 4.1.4 of the Action Plan to the Agreement and Resolution 2.2 that, *inter alia*, called upon Contracting Parties to enhance their efforts to phase out the use of lead shot in wetlands as soon as possible and to report to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties on progress,

Noting that only nine national reports were submitted to MOP2 out of 34 that were due,

Noting that until now only 27 national reports and 17 reports on lead shot have been submitted[1] to MOP3 as detailed in Appendix 1,

Further noting that national reports are essential sources of information for the preparation of international reviews by the Secretariat pursuit to paragraph 7.4 of the Action Plan, and that the non-submission of national reports has impeded the Secretariat from fulfilling this obligation,

Emphasising the role of national reports as vital indicators in implementation of the Agreement,

Further emphasising the need to have comprehensive information on the use of lead shot in wetlands in order to reach the goal of phasing out such use.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Urges* all Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to submit at the earliest date, but no later than 31 December 2005, national reports for the triennium 2003-2005;

2. *Instructs* the Secretariat to perform analysis of the reports received by 31 December 2005 and make the results available to the Parties and the Technical Committee by the end of February 2006, so that the findings can help inform their activities and decision-making;

3. *Further instructs* the Secretariat to analyse the difficulties encountered by certain Contracting Parties in delivering their national reports and make the results of this analysis available to the Standing Committee before MOP4;

4. *Urges* all Contracting Parties, in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the Agreement to submit national reports for the triennium 2006-2008 to the Secretariat one hundred and twenty days before MOP4;

5. *Asks* the Secretariat to advise Contracting Parties of the date for submission of their national reports for MOP4 and to issue reminders if reports for MOP4 are not received by the said date;

[1] As of 17 October 2005

6. *Urges* all Contracting Parties that have not submitted reports on their progress made to phase out lead shot in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Resolution 2.2, to do so by 31 December 2005, and again, one hundred and twenty days before the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Appendix 1[2]

Country	Submitted national report	Submitted report on lead shot
Albania	X	
Belgium [3]	X	X
Bulgaria	X	
Congo	X	X
Croatia	X	X
Denmark	X	X
Djibouti [4]	X	
European Community [5]	X	X
Georgia [4]	X	
Germany	X	X
Ghana [5]	X	X
Guinea [4]	X (not required format)	
Hungary	X	X
Ireland	X	X
Jordan	X	
Kenya	X	X
Latvia [5]	X	X
Lebanon [4]	X	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	X	
Lithuania	X	
Luxembourg	X	X
Macedonia (the FYR)	X	X
Mauritius	X	X
Moldova	X	
Monaco	X	
Morocco [3]	X	
Netherlands [4]	X	X
Niger [4]	X	
Senegal	X	
Slovakia	X	X
Slovenia	X	X
South Africa	X	
Spain	X	X
Sweden	X	X
Switzerland	X	X
Tanzania	X	X
Tunisia [5]	X	X
Ukraine [4]	X	
United Kingdom	X	X
Uzbekistan	X	

[2] Updated as of 14 February 2006 on request of MOP3
[3] Signatory States
[4] AEWA Contracting Parties that provided National Reports/Reports on lead shot after MOP3
[5] AEWA Contracting Parties as of 1 October 2005 or later that were not required to provide National Reports/Reports on lead shot

RESOLUTION 3.5

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

Recalling Resolution 1.3 on establishment of a triennial national report format,

Noting the low rate of submission of National Reports to MOP2 and MOP3,

Taking into account the results from the analysis of difficulties encountered by certain Contracting Parties in delivering their national reports (see Resolution 3.4),

Aware that implementation of the Agreement and its Action Plan will be enhanced by regular reviews of national implementation,

Further noting that the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Committee recommended the development of an online report facility as a tool for better harmonisation of the AEWA reporting templates,

Aware that as the information submitted by Parties improves over time, both in terms of comprehensiveness and precision, the facility will be an extremely valuable tool for assessing implementation and identifying gaps.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat, in close cooperation with the Technical Committee and the CMS Secretariat, to develop an online national report format to be submitted for approval to MOP4. The format should seek to advance harmonization of reporting with other international biodiversity agreements through the development of common reporting modules;

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

RESOLUTION 3.6

DEVELOPING AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUPPORT OF WATERBIRD POPULATION ASSESSMENTS

Reaffirming that the Agreement considers "that migratory waterbirds constitute an important part of global biological diversity which, in keeping with the spirit of the Convention of Biological Diversity, 1992, and Agenda 21 should be conserved for the benefit of present and future generations",

Aware that responsive formulation of conservation policies for migratory waterbirds depends crucially on up-to-date information on the status and trends of their populations,

Aware also that information on the status and trends of populations of migratory waterbirds provides an essential international context for the national implementation of the Agreement's Action Plan by Contracting Parties,

Recalling that the Agreement requires a review of the status and trends of migratory waterbirds necessary for the implementation of its Action Plan, and that this should be updated at intervals of not more than three years,

Conscious that the International Waterbird Census by Wetlands International is one of the largest harmonised global schemes for the collection of biodiversity data, providing essential inputs for the publication of the triennial report series *Waterbird Population Estimates,* which summarises best available information on the status of the world's waterbird populations,

Recalling that the International Waterbird Census and the *Waterbird Population Estimates* are recognised as of high priority for the implementation of the Agreement through their inclusion in the AEWA's International Implementation Priorities for 2000-2004 and 2003-2007,

Noting the reaffirmation by Ramsar's eighth Conference of the Parties "of the importance of data collected by the International Waterbird Census for the assessment of wetlands against Criteria 2, 4, 5 and 6 of the *Strategic Framework and Guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VII.11)", and *noting also* CoP8's request "that Wetlands International bring to each future Conference of the Parties updated editions of *Waterbird Population Estimates*",

Recalling that Resolution VI.4 of the Ramsar Convention stressed "the need for close technical co-ordination between the Ramsar Convention, and especially the Bonn Convention's African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, and other international treaties and organisations, to ensure commonality in the use of international waterbird population estimates and 1% thresholds", and that the Ramsar Convention's Resolution VIII.38 desired "to promote the application of a single global source of information on [waterbird population] 1% thresholds",

Further aware that the wide geographic scale of the International Waterbird Census, its long history in some parts of the world, and its annual basis, all provide a highly responsive means of assessing fulfilment of the World Summit on Sustainable Development's 2010 biodiversity target,

Noting the Joint Work Programme between the Ramsar Convention, CMS and AEWA, which highlights the desirability of developing joint activities, projects and guidelines on topics of common interest in the Ramsar Strategic Plan and the AEWA's International Implementation Priorities,

Recalling that the 25th Anniversary Conference on the EU Birds Directive (Bergen-op-Zoom, November 2004) recommended *inter alia* the following actions:

- "Monitoring: use, and if necessary develop, effective and harmonised monitoring and reporting frameworks (building on existing monitoring approaches and methods including those of civil society using memorandums of understanding where appropriate) in order to establish adequate data flows on the status and trends of species, sites, habitats and related management measures; this is especially to reveal and communicate key trends of the bird indicators from 2006…",

and to:

- "Promote and support coordinated actions to strengthen the flyway management and long-term monitoring of waterbirds and other long-distance migratory bird species outside the EU notably in Africa, the Middle East and European non-EU states",

Recalling also the Edinburgh Declaration of the *Waterbirds around the World* global conference (Edinburgh, April 2004) which called:

- "in particular for urgent action to underpin future conservation decisions with high-quality scientific advice drawn from co-ordinated, and adequately funded, research and monitoring programmes notably the International Waterbird Census, and to this end, urge[d] governments and other partners to work together collaboratively and supportively;"

and to:

- "develop policy-relevant indicators of the status of the world's wetlands, especially in the context of the 2010 target, using waterbird and other data generated from robust and sustainable monitoring schemes",

and which called on:

- "the Conventions on Migratory Species, Biological Diversity and Wetlands, and other international agreements to work together and with other partners on such assessments, and in particular with Wetlands International to further develop the analytical content, of the triennial publication *Waterbird Population Estimates* and its use",

However, greatly concerned that the lack of a sustainable basis for funding the International Waterbird Census and *Waterbird Population Estimates* now jeopardises the provision of information for a wide range of international policy uses, *inter alia* the assessment of status and trends of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds and following reactive amendments to the AEWA's Action Plan; the application of Criteria 2, 4, 5 and 6 of the Ramsar Convention; the global review and assessment of conservation status of migratory waterbird species facilitating amendment to the appendices of the Convention on Migratory Species; and the potential use of data on waterbird status to inform WSSD's 2010 biodiversity target,

Convinced of the desirability of the development of a long-term programme of cost-sharing as a practical means of developing a sustainable programme of support for the international assessment of waterbird populations, not only for its own sake, but as indicators of trends in wider global biodiversity.

The Meeting of Parties:

1. *Urges* the urgent development of an international partnership to provide an essential and long-term funding regime for the International Waterbird Census and *Waterbird Population Estimates*, involving relevant users of outputs, *inter alia* international conventions and treaties, regional economic integration organisations, international agencies, national governments, and national and international non-governmental organisations as appropriate;

2. *Requests* the Agreement Secretariat to work with Wetlands International to develop costed proposals to this end and to co-ordinate with interested parties to establish such a partnership as a matter of priority, thus facilitating the timely delivery of the Report on the status and trends of waterbird populations for future MOPs;

3. *Requests* the support of the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on Biological Diversity, regional economic integration organisations, national governments, the European Community, national and international non-governmental organisations, and donor organisations to establish such arrangements for the financial support of the International Waterbird Census and *Waterbird Population Estimates* and its derived outputs as a means of informing a wide range of national and international conservation policies and indicators.

RESOLUTION 3.7

IMPLEMENTING THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE *WATERBIRDS AROUND THE WORLD* CONFERENCE

Sponsored by The Netherlands and the United Kingdom

Aware that the governments of The Netherlands and the United Kingdom with Wetlands International organised a major international conference — *Waterbirds around the World* — in Edinburgh, Scotland during April 2004,

Noting the support for this conference given by many inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as multilateral environmental treaties, including AEWA,

Aware also that this conference was attended by 456 participants from 90 countries across the world, thus bringing together a unique mix of current expertise concerning the policy and practice of waterbird conservation,

Recalling that there were conference technical sessions not only regarding the conservation of waterbirds in the African - Eurasian region, but also on many other topics of direct relevance to the implementation of the Agreement on both a national and international scale.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Notes* the priorities for waterbird conservation highlighted in the concluding statement from the *Waterbirds around the World* conference (appended to this Resolution); and

2. *Urges* Contracting Parties, inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organisations to implement these conclusions and other technical outputs from the *Waterbirds around the World* conference, as appropriate.

The Edinburgh Declaration

An international conference on waterbirds, their conservation and sustainable use was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, from 3-8 April 2004, and was attended by 456 participants from 90 countries.

Conscious that waterbird flyways are biological systems of migration paths that directly link sites and ecosystems in different countries and continents;

Recalling that the conservation and wise-use of waterbirds is a shared responsibility of nations and peoples and a common concern of human-kind;

Recalling also the long history of international co-operation for waterbird conservation developed over a hundred years with treaties such as that concerned with migratory birds in 1916 between USA and UK (on behalf of Canada), and that over 40 years ago, the first European Meeting on Wildfowl Conservation held in St. Andrews, Scotland in 1963, started a process leading to the establishment of the Convention on wetlands especially as waterfowl habitat in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971;

Noting that major international conferences in Noordwijk aan Zee, The Netherlands (1966), Leningrad, USSR (1968), Ramsar, Iran (1971), Astrakhan, USSR (1989), St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, USA (1992), Kushiro, Japan and Strasbourg, France (1994), have further developed international technical exchanges on waterbird conservation;

Aware of the development of further inter-governmental co-operation through the establishment and implementation of further treaties, agreements, strategies and programmes; and of the development of considerable non-governmental national and international co-operation in waterbird conservation and monitoring;

Conscious that at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, world leaders expressed their desire to achieve *"a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity"* by 2010, and that in February 2004 this target was further developed by the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention, and **aware that** achieving this target will require significant investments and highly focused and co-ordinated conservation activity on all continents, and **recognising that** communication, education and public awareness and capacity building will play a key role in achieving this target;

Further conscious of the urgent need to strengthen international co-operation and partnerships between governments, inter-governmental and non-government organisations, local communities and the private sector;

Alarmed at the perilous state of many populations of waterbirds, in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and at the continued decline in quality and extent of the world's wetlands;

Noting the conclusions and priorities for further action identified by the many technical workshops and presentations made at this conference, and recorded subsequently in this Declaration.

Welcoming the joint initiative of Wetlands International, and government authorities in the United Kingdom and The Netherlands, with the support also of Australia, Denmark, USA, Japan, Germany, Sweden, Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland, UNEP/CMS, UNEP/AEWA, FACE, and CIC and with the input of many other organisations and individuals, in convening the conference *Waterbirds Around the World* in Edinburgh so as to review the current status of the world's waterbirds;

The Conference Participants, assembled together in Edinburgh —

Consider that although significant progress has been made to conserve waterbirds and their wetland habitats leading to some major successes, overall there remain important challenges, which, together with uncertainties about implications of future changes, requires further efforts and focused actions;

Reaffirm that, in the words of the Ramsar Convention, "*waterbirds, in their seasonal migrations may transcend frontiers and so should be regarded as an international resource*" and "*that the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna can be ensured by combining far-sighted national policies with co-ordinated international action*" and accordingly **urge that** efforts between countries to conserve waterbird populations and their wetland habitats are extended, not only for the values that waterbirds have in sustaining human populations, but also for their own sakes;

Consider that flyway conservation should combine species- and ecosystem-based approaches, internationally co-ordinated throughout migratory ranges;

Acknowledge that the conservation and sustainable use of waterbirds and wetland resources require co-ordinated action by public and private sectors, dependent local communities and other stakeholders;

Call in particular for urgent action to:

- Halt and reverse wetland loss and degradation;
- Complete national and international wetland inventories, and promote the conservation of wetlands of importance to waterbirds in the context of surrounding areas, especially through the participation of local communities;
- Extend and strengthen international networks of key sites for waterbirds along all flyways;
- Establish and extend formal agreements and other co-operation arrangements between countries to conserve species, where possible within the frameworks provided by the Conventions on Migratory Species, Biological Diversity and Wetlands;
- Fund and implement recovery plans for all globally threatened waterbird species;
- Halt and reverse recently revealed declines of long-distance migrant shorebirds through sustainable management by governments and others of human activities at sites of unique importance to them;
- Restore albatross and petrel populations to favourable conservation status through urgent and internationally co-ordinated conservation actions, especially through the framework provided by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels;
- Substantially reduce pollution in the marine environment and establish sustainable harvesting of marine resources;
- Underpin future conservation decisions with high-quality scientific advice drawn from co-ordinated, and adequately funded, research and monitoring programmes notably the International Waterbird Census, and to this end, urge governments and other partners to work together collaboratively and supportively;
- Develop policy-relevant indicators of the status of the world's wetlands, especially in the context of the 2010 target, using waterbird and other data generated from robust and sustainable monitoring schemes;

- Invest in communication, education and public awareness activities as a key element of waterbird and wetlands conservation;
- Assess disease risk, and establish monitoring programmes in relation to migratory waterbird movements, the trade of wild birds, and implications for human health.

Urge that particular priority be given to capacity building for flyway conservation in countries and territories with limited institutions and resources, given that the wise-use of waterbirds and wetlands is important for sustainable development and poverty alleviation;

Strongly encourage countries to ratify and implement relevant conventions, agreements and treaties so as to encourage further international co-operation, and to make use of available resources including the Global Environment Facility in order to finance action required under this Declaration;

Consider that, with the long history of co-operative international assessments, waterbirds provide excellent indicators by which to evaluate progress towards achievement of the 2010 target established by world leaders in 2002, and to this end **Call on** the Conventions on Migratory Species, Biological Diversity and Wetlands, and other international agreements to work together and with other partners on such assessments, and in particular with Wetlands International to further develop the analytical content, of the triennial publication *Waterbird Population Estimates* and its use;

Stress the need for wide international dissemination of this Declaration and the technical outcomes of this Conference[6]; and

Agree to meet again as a conference in ten years time to review progress.

Edinburgh
7 April 2004

[6] A full technical summary will be published during summer 2004 and will be available on the conference web-site – www.wetlands.org/GFC. Papers presented to the conference will be published in a proceedings volume in 2006.

In support of the recommendations above, the Conference concluded the following:

- For the Flyways of the Americas, collaboration between North, Central and South America and Caribbean nations is developing, based on conclusions of the conference of nations to consider the status of migratory birds held during the VIIIth Neotropical Congress in Chile, and in the recent completion of a Waterbird Conservation Plan for the Americas. Despite more than a century of conservation efforts in North America and emergence of a shared vision for biologically-based, landscape orientated partnerships, it is clear that international co-operation amongst Pan-American countries sharing migratory birds should increase.

- In African-Eurasian Flyways, the generally good knowledge of waterbirds is not being effectively transferred into necessary national and local actions. Nor have conservation efforts led to maintaining or restoring the health of many waterbird populations, including globally threatened species. There are urgent needs to integrate waterbird conservation as part of sustainable development, to the greater benefit of local communities and other stakeholders dependent on wetlands as well as benefiting biodiversity. The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (UNEP/AEWA) provides a good basis to achieve this.

- Intra-African Flyways are extremely poorly known and would benefit from greater attention.

- Many of the waterbirds of the Central Asian Flyway appear to be declining, although information on status and trends is generally poor. In most countries there has been little previous investment in conservation and low involvement of local stakeholders in the sustainable management of wetlands. An international framework for the development of conservation initiatives for migratory waterbirds in Central Asia is urgently required to promote co-operative action. Better information is needed to identify priority conservation issues and responses.

- The waterbirds of Asian-Australasian Flyways are the most poorly known, and the greatest number of globally threatened waterbirds occur here. This flyway extends across the most densely populated part of the world, where there are extreme pressures not only on unprotected wetlands but also on protected sites. Effective protection of wetlands of major importance is a critical need, as in other regions of the world. There are huge, and crucial, challenges in ensuring effective wise-use of key sites, as well as ensuring that consumptive uses of waterbirds are sustainable.

- Conservation of pelagic waterbirds in the open oceans gives a range of unique challenges. The entry into force of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels is a most welcome development, and its full implementation is an urgent need. Addressing issues of seabird by-catch, especially by illegal and unregulated fisheries remains a critical need to reverse the poor conservation status of many species, as is the general need to achieve sustainable marine fisheries.

- Most of the world's known flyways originate in the Arctic. The recent development of international co-operation between arctic countries is welcome, as is the recognition of the crucial need to involve local communities and their traditional local knowledge in waterbird management. Austro-tropical Flyways also require research.

- Climate changes are already affecting waterbirds. The consequences of climate change for waterbirds will be multiple, and will greatly exacerbate current negative impacts such as habitat loss and degradation. There is a need for wide-scale planning, at landscape and flyway scales, to reduce or mitigate the impacts on waterbird populations and their habitats. Research that explores a range of potential future scenarios will be required to underpin this planning and will need data from long-term monitoring and surveillance.

- The conservation status of non-migrant waterbird populations around the world in many cases is poorer than that of migrants, and these waterbirds generally have less focused international attention than migrants. Addressing conservation requirements of non-migrant waterbirds should also be given national and international priority.

- On a densely populated planet it is crucial that waterbird conservationists focus on their relationships with communities and governments as the means both of reversing the causes of poor conservation status, and of resolving conflicts with protected species. Adequately funded programmes of communication, education and public awareness need to be the core of all waterbird conservation initiatives.

- Science has identified the critical importance of a small number of key sites to long-distance migrant shorebirds and that human activities at some of these are responsible for recent dramatic declines in certain shorebird populations.

- Recent research has highlighted the genetic and demographic risks incurred by species that have small populations. These have implications for the design of species recovery programmes.

- The frequency and magnitude of disease losses among waterbirds (from emerging or re-emerging disease agents) have increased to the extent that they demand attention. These diseases not only affect waterbirds but have impacts on humans. Solutions require a multi-disciplinary approach.

- An integrated approach to the monitoring of waterbirds gives cost-effective identification of the reasons for waterbird population changes. There are good examples of the collection of demographic information and its integration with census data. Further such national and especially international schemes should be strongly encouraged and funded.

- Systematic analyses for atlases confirm the value of ringing studies in assessing the conservation status of breeding, wintering and stop-over sites within flyways. To this end, there should be integration of data from conventional ringing and colour-marking, telemetry, stable isotope analyses and genetic markers.

RESOLUTION 3.8

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES TO THE AGREEMENT

Recalling Article X of the Agreement concerning the procedures to amend the Action Plan and its Annexes,

Recalling the importance of ensuring that proposals for amendment to the Agreement are in accordance with the procedure set down in Article X of the Agreement, which is necessary to ensure that Parties have sufficient time to prepare appropriately for adopting decisions at the Meeting of the Parties,

Considering that the Meeting of the Parties should provide to the subsidiary bodies further clarification on their role in the procedures to be followed in application of Article IV to facilitate the smooth functioning of the Agreement,

Recalling Resolution 2.1, adopted at the Second Meeting of the Parties in Bonn, Germany in September 2002, which amended Annexes 2 and 3 to the Agreement, and requested the Technical Committee of the Agreement, in close cooperation with the Agreement Secretariat and in close consultation with the relevant bodies of the Convention on Migratory Species, to review further development of the Agreement by including additional species of wetland birds and species traditionally considered to be seabirds, looking in first instance at the species listed in Table 2 and 3 of AEWA/MOP 2.9, expanding Table 3 to species from the whole of Africa, and considering, in particular, the extent to which the existing Action Plan is adequate in its scope to address differing conservation problems faced by birds of prey, passerines and other taxonomic groups using wetlands,

Convinced of the need regularly to update the Action Plan, taking into account species of conservation concern not yet included in the existing Action Plan,

Aware of the ongoing activities under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals regarding the development of a legal instrument for the conservation of Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian region,

Further aware of the lack of knowledge regarding the conservation status, migration patterns and distribution of passerines particularly in Africa, which is fundamental to assess measures necessary to conserve these species,

Welcoming the work carried as follow up to Resolution 2.1 in relation to seabirds in view of the increased concern about their conservation status, *having reviewed* documents AEWA/MOP 3.16, entitled "Proposal for new species to be added to AEWA Annex 2", and AEWA/MOP 3.29.Rev.2, entitled "Proposal for amendment of the Action Plan to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds", *having taken note* of the proposed changes to Annex 2 (List of Species) to the Agreement, and to the text and to Table 1 of the Action Plan (Annex 3),

Aware that in the current Annex 2 to the Agreement, as adopted by previous Meetings of the Parties, several listed species are traditionally considered as seabirds,

Acknowledging that many seabirds spend most of their life cycle in the pelagic marine environment and face different conservation threats than species currently covered by the Agreement, and require management measures that are addressed *inter alia* the context of fisheries bodies, including regional fisheries management organizations.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Regrets* that due to the late circulation of documents and the lack of opportunity for the subsidiary bodies to assess them, the Meeting of the Parties is not in a position to amend Table 1 of the Action Plan to the Agreement at the current session;

2. *Invites* Parties to take into account the information contained in Table 1 annexed to Doc AEWA/MOP3.29.Rev.2 when adopting conservation measures in accordance with the Agreement;

3. *Invites* Parties to indicate to the Secretariat their particular concerns regarding the information contained in Table 1 annexed to Doc AEWA/MOP3.29.Rev.2 and regarding the addition of 21 species to Annex 2 before the next meeting of the Technical Committee;

4. *Reinforces* the call by the Technical Committee that any changes to Table 1 of the Action Plan be based upon transparent sources of data and information and that the triennial Status Review should provide a clear audit of such justifications;

5. *Requests* the Standing Committee, in view of the assessment by the Technical Committee of updated information consolidated by the Secretariat, to review Table 1 of the Action Plan, and if appropriate, communicate to the Secretariat a proposal for its amendment not less than 150 days before the opening of future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with Article X of the Agreement;

6. *Requests* Parties to support the adoption and application of measures in the context of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds and combat Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing practices in the area of application of the Agreement;

7. *Requests* the Technical Committee, in close co-operation with the Agreement Secretariat and consultation with the relevant bodies of the Convention, to further consider the potential role of the Agreement in the conservation of seabirds, taking into account the actions being undertaken by the RFMOs and other relevant international organisations, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and to report to the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

RESOLUTION 3.9

DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)

Noting that Article VI, paragraph 8 b and 9 f, of the Agreement requires the Meeting of the Parties to review the implementation of the Agreement and to decide if on any other matters relating to the implementation of the Agreement,

Aware of the development of a new Strategic Plan for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), which will be submitted to the 8th meeting of the Conference of Parties to be held from 20-25 November 2005, Nairobi, Kenya for adoption,

Further aware that the draft CMS Strategic Plan *inter alia* stresses the important role of the CMS Agreements regarding implementation of the CMS aims and objectives,

Recalling the decision taken by Standing Committee at its 3rd meeting (July 2005, Germany) to urge the 3rd session of the Meeting of the Parties to take the development of a Strategic Plan for the Agreement in consideration,

Conscious that the purpose of the strategy will be to effectively halt the current rate of loss of biodiversity and in particular of waterbirds in order to secure the continuity of their beneficial use through the conservation and sustainable use of their components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their genetic resources,

Conscious also of the need to establish clear priorities to guide the work of the Standing Committee, the Technical Committee, the Secretariat and individual Parties implementing the Agreement.

The Meeting of Parties:

1. *Decides* to develop a Strategic Plan for the Agreement taking into account the new CMS Strategic Plan;

2. *Instructs* the Standing Committee to prepare a Strategic Plan for the Agreement in close cooperation with the Technical Committee and the Agreement Secretariat and to submit this Plan to the Meeting of the Parties for formal adoption at its 4th session;

3. *Requests* Parties and Organisations to support the development of the Strategic Plan for the Agreement.

RESOLUTION 3.10

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)

Aware of the importance of communication as central and crosscutting element for implementing the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement,

Recalling that Article III of the AEWA Agreement text states that in order to conserve migratory waterbirds, the Parties shall "develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of migratory waterbird conservation issues in general and of the particular objectives and provisions of this Agreement",

Further recalling that according to chapter 6 of the AEWA Action Plan (1) Parties shall, where necessary, arrange for training programmes to ensure that personnel responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan have an adequate knowledge to implement it effectively; (2) that Parties shall cooperate with each other and the Agreement Secretariat with a view to developing training programmes and exchanging resource materials; (3) that Parties shall endeavour to develop programmes, information materials and mechanisms to improve the level of awareness of the general public with regard to the objectives, provisions and contents of this Acton Plan giving particular attention to those people living in and around important wetlands, to users of these wetlands (hunters, fishermen, tourists, etc.) and to local authorities and other decision makers; (4) that Parties shall endeavour to undertake specific public awareness campaigns for the conservation of the populations listed in Table 1,

Seeing with satisfaction that, as requested by Resolution 2.4 in reference to paragraph 6.3 and 6.4 of the AEWA Action Plan, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat drafted a Communication Strategy,

Recognizing the role of the AEWA Secretariat as a process facilitator in bringing partners together to cooperate effectively towards the common goal of waterbird conservation along the African-Eurasian flyways,

Further recognizing the role of the Communication Strategy as a tool to achieve the most effective and efficient communication both within the formal structures of AEWA and between its member states and to make a shift from the Secretariat's focus on recruitment of Range States as Contracting Party to AEWA to a combination of recruitment and implementation,

Acknowledging that the Communication Strategy is a tool to stimulate active participation of the Contracting Parties in the further recruitment of Range States as well as in the implementation of AEWA,

Noting that the Communication Strategy is based on a consultation among AEWA Contracting Parties, Range States and partners, conducted in order to identify the activities needed to achieve the envisaged goal,

Further noting that the Draft Communication Strategy was approved by the 2nd Meeting of the Standing Committee to AEWA in November 2004,

Thanking the government of the United Kingdom for having funded the preparatory research and the development of the communication strategy,

Congratulating the government of Germany for their initiative to recruit a Junior Professional Officer to support the Secretariat of the Agreement in implementing the Communication Strategy as well as for their financial contribution to the activities related to the 10th Anniversary of AEWA,

Thanking the Government of Luxembourg for having generously contributed to the implementation of the Communication Strategy by producing a new edition of outreach materials on AEWA.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the Communication Strategy, contained in Annex I to this Resolution as an instrument to effectively address the conservation of waterbirds on the flyway level;

2. *Instructs* the AEWA Secretariat to implement the Communication Strategy to extend possible taking into account resources available, to review its effectiveness on a regular basis and to report on its implementation to the meetings of the Standing Committee and to the 4th Meeting of the Parties;

3. *Further instructs* the Secretariat to undertake specific efforts to obtain additional financial resources for the implementation of the Communication Strategy;

4. *Urges* Contracting Parties, donors and private sector sponsors to provide supplementary financial support to enable the Secretariat to realize all identified activities of the Strategy;

5. *Invites* all Parties, Range States and other stakeholders along the African-Eurasian Flyway to support the implementation of the Communication Strategy at the global, regional, national or local levels, as appropriate, with the expertise, networks, skills and resources they have at their disposal;

6. *Encourages* all Contracting Parties to host AEWA Exchange Centers for their region, as stipulated in the Communication Strategy;

7. *Further encourages* all representatives of Contracting Parties and partner organizations to envisage functioning as ambassador to AEWA in order to help the Secretariat with the recruitment of new Parties to AEWA.

Annex I

AEWA Communication Strategy

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction **67**
1.1. Background 67
1.2. Institutional Background 67
1.3. Where are we now 67

2. Assessment Phase **69**
2.1. Desk research 69
2.2. Quick Scan 69
2.3. Communication Capacity 69

3. Communication Strategy for AEWA **70**
3.1. Introduction 70
3.2. Players 72
3.3. Objectives, desired results & activities 73

4. Funding strategy **79**

5. Review Procedure **80**

6. Communication Action Plan **80**

7. List of Acronyms **81**

ANNEX 1-3 **82**

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) is one of the first international agreements that deals with the conservation of migratory bird species at a flyway level. As such, AEWA fills a niche among other international conventions that deal with conservation related issues limited to a specific habitat, a (group of) species or limited region.

Flyway conservation can be achieved only through transboundary cooperation and therefore requires intensive partnership building between countries and regions.

The geographical area of AEWA covers Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia and as such consists of 117 range states. The agreement covers 235 species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, including many species of pelicans, storks, flamingos, swans, geese, ducks, waders, gulls and terns.

1.2 Institutional Context

AEWA is an independent international treaty that was developed as a Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) under the Convention for Migratory Species (CMS). The CMS is an umbrella convention that develops MEAs and Memoranda of Understanding to support its implementation. Aside from AEWA, other MEAs have been developed under CMS, such as EUROBATS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS[1].

AEWA entered into force on the 1st of November 1999 after the required number of 7 ratifications from Africa and 7 from Eurasia was achieved. The Netherlands has taken the lead to develop AEWA. At the Negotiation Meeting to adopt the text of the Agreement and Action Plan the Netherlands offered to host the first Meeting of Parties (MOP1), to be the depository and to provide an Interim Secretariat free of charge until the Agreement would enter into force.

At MOP1, in South Africa in November 1999, it was decided to establish a permanent Secretariat and to integrate this into UNEP. As such, the AEWA Secretariat is administered by UNEP and is reporting to UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. For administrative and cost-sharing purposes the Secretariat is co-located at the UN headquarters in Bonn with the Secretariat of its mother convention, the Convention on Migratory Species, and its two sister Agreements: EUROBATS and ASCOBANS. On 17th of July 2000 the permanent Secretariat was established at the UN headquarters in Bonn where it is hosted by the Federal Republic of Germany.

The day-to-day implementation of AEWA is directed by its permanent Secretariat in Bonn. At the first Meeting of Parties (MOP1) in 1999, it was decided that a *Technical Committee*, convening annually, oversees the general implementation of the Agreement.

At MOP 2, in 2002, the Parties decided that aside from the Technical Committee, the need had arisen to establish a *Standing Committee*, which would focus on administrative and budgetary matters. This Standing Committee convenes towards the end of each year and had its first meeting in November 2003. The Standing Committee consists of 7 members and has invited major NGOs as observers.

1.3. Where are we now

AEWA has concluded its 2nd Meeting of Parties in September 2002. To date, focus of the Secretariat has been on recruitment of Range States as Contracting Parties to the Agreement. It has been very successful in this respect: AEWA has evolved rapidly since its conception and is recognized as a

[1] EUROBATS: the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of the European Bats (entered into force in 1994), ASCOBANS: the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (1994), and ACCOBAMS: the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (2001).

practical, relevant Agreement along the entire flyway. At the moment of writing (November 2004), 48 of the 117 range states are Contracting Parties and many others are presently undertaking the necessary accession procedures.

Future focus
A survey of selected Parties and other stakeholders has shown that the future focus should be on implementation of the Agreement or on a combination of recruitment and implementation. It is expected that other Range States will be motivated to join through strategic promotion of the successes achieved. Recruitment will then follow as a natural consequence.

Common ground can be found in redirecting focus towards a combination of recruitment and implementation, which is therefore the basis of this strategy for the coming years.

Role of Communication
The AEWA Agreement Text[2] mentions in Article III: General Conservation Measures, paragraph 2.j., that in order to conserve migratory waterbirds, the Parties shall: "*(j) develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of migratory waterbird conservation issues in general and of the particular objectives and provisions of this Agreement.*"

Furthermore, an Action Plan is appended as Annex 3 to the Agreement. Chapter 6 Education and Information of this action plan states:

> *"6.1 Parties shall, where necessary, arrange for training programmes to ensure that personnel responsible for the implementation of this Action Plan have an adequate knowledge to implement it effectively.*
>
> *6.2 Parties shall cooperate with each other and the Agreement secretariat with a view to developing training programmes and exchanging resource materials.*
>
> *6.3 Parties shall endeavour to develop programmes, information materials and mechanisms to improve the level of awareness of the general public with regard to the objectives, provisions and contents of this Action Plan. In this regard, particular attention shall be given to those people living in and around important wetlands, to users of these wetlands (hunters, fishermen, tourists, etc.) and to local authorities and other decision makers.*
>
> *6.4 Parties shall endeavour to undertake specific public awareness campaigns for the conservation of the populations listed in Table 1."*

A communication strategy for AEWA can help address the above described issues, increasing understanding of the different interests and managing expectations among the different players; ultimately increasing the effectiveness of the Agreement itself. Effective communication can also support the Agreement in making the above-proposed shift in focus.

Such strategy will help put the current communication effort undertaken by the Secretariat and other players into context and will help strategise the limited resources; both financial and human, that are available for this task. The strategy is centred on the Secretariat's role of a process facilitator (the 'spider in the web'), and the implications this role has for the contracting parties and other partners, with an over-arching objective of supporting the implementation of the Agreement.

[2] The full Agreement Text can be found on the website: www.unep-aewa.org/eng/agree.htm

2. Assessment Phase

A communication strategy advises on approaches and activities to achieve the most effective and efficient communication to support the management of AEWA. In order to give such advice, it needs to be based on sound back ground information with regards to past and current communication activities, capacity for communication, perceptions, levels of knowledge and attitude, obstacles and opportunities.

2.1. Desk research

In preparation, desk research on AEWA, its background and related documentation was conducted. The Secretariat of AEWA in Bonn was visited, and discussions were held with its staff, as well as staff of CMS, and with staff of EUROBATS and ASCOBANS. Wetland International was consulted in relation to the GEF Flyway project, the draft proposal of which was made available as well.

Among the documents consulted, the following were of special relevance for the preparation of this communication strategy, and/or will be for its implementation: the GEF Flyway Project Proposal documents, the CMS Communication Strategy (draft 2003), the CMS report on the development of regional agreements (2001), and the UNEP Guidelines for websites and the UNEP publication strategy.

2.2. Quick Scan

The Secretariat and the Contracting Parties have expectations of the benefits that accession to, and consequently implementation of the Agreement will bring them. Are these expectations in line with each other? Are the results and approaches communicated clearly and effectively? To find answers to these questions and intended as input to a communication strategy for the Agreement, a quick scan was conducted in 2003 among Contracting Parties, range states and relevant organisations, into the perception of AEWA, its functions and benefits, obstacles in its implementation, and its communications approach. The results of this quick scan have been presented to the AEWA Standing Committee meeting in Bonn in November 2003, to incorporate feedback of that body.

The quick scan was conducted using a combination of a questionnaire and semi-structured interviews. Two types of questionnaires were developed. The version for Contracting Parties (CPs) was sent to the AEWA Focal points in 47[3] countries and focussed on topics around accession to the Agreement, the Implementation of AEWA and Communication. The other version was sent to representatives of the remaining 70 Range States that are still Non-Contracting Parties (NCPs), and dealt with accession and communication. In addition to the questionnaires, a selection of representatives of Range States as well as relevant organisations was interviewed to obtain more in-depth information. These interviews were conducted in person or through telephone, and were semi-structured. The full report of this quick scan can be found on the AEWA website: www.unep-aewa.org[4].

2.3. Communication Capacity

The capacity for communication will determine the extent to which the communication strategy can be implemented. Capacity can be assessed in terms of human resources, technical expertise and financial resources.

Technical expertise

There is sufficient awareness and understanding of the need of communications to make AEWA function effectively. Although limited in extent, a structural part of the yearly budget is allocated for communication activities. As the foreseen professional staff position for information / communication

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[3] For the purpose of this quick scan, the - at that time - 43 Contracting Parties and the 4 signatories were pooled together, as their process for ratification was advanced.

[4] The full report of this quick scan has been made available to the Technical Committee in document TC/Inf. 5.4 (2004) and can be found at http://www.unep-aewa.org/eng/TC%20MEETINGS/TC5docs/TC5.htm.

has not yet been filled, the Secretariat also provides substantial time input into communication. This is not only driven by the Secretariat but is also appreciated and perceived as important by the Parties. However, with the growth of the Agreement and the related increase in communication activities, the technical skills and expertise requirements have increased to an extent where this capacity is no longer sufficient.

Current communication centres around supplying information on AEWA and its progress to relevant players. Communication takes place mainly in the form of disseminating information in a sender-receiver set up which leaves little room for feedback and interaction. It is centred around printed materials (newsletter, posters, a brochure, and minutes of meetings).

Human resources
The Secretariat currently consists of one Professional Staff member (the Executive Secretary) and one General Staff member (the Administrative Assistant). As of 16 August 2004 an additional Professional Staff member (Associate Technical Officer) will enter on duty. A procedure is currently on its way to find funding for one JPO who should function as information officer. In the past several short contracts have been granted for the development of specific information materials, such as the special issues of newsletters and the exhibition. At the moment, there is limited structural capacity within the Secretariat to produce and subsequently manage communication materials, and limited capacity to have the Agreement represented at relevant meetings and fora.

Considerable expertise is available in partner institutions. Currently little use is made of such organisations in a more structural way. UNEP has several divisions that could support the AEWA Secretariat in its communications work, although this would have financial consequences that are currently not supported by (sufficient) budget allocations. Ramsar has a network and website that could be used to assist AEWA as well. The upcoming GEF Flyway project envisions communication work that involves AEWA as well and can be seen as an important partner in the coming years when it comes to the implementation of communication activities.

Financial resources
The current information materials are being financed through the incoming budget, which is approved by the MOP. The development of the communication strategy and preparatory research has been funded through a voluntary contribution by one of the Contracting Parties. Implementation of the strategy will be subject to approval by MOP3.

3. Communication Strategy for AEWA

3.1. Introduction
At the core of flyway conservation is collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders along these flyways. Be it bilateral cooperation to conserve a specific habitat, cooperation focusing on parts of flyways used by a single species, or international policy agreements between a larger number of countries, a key element of successful cooperation is that information, resources and experiences can be relatively easily shared and exchanged and feed into management and planning.

Cooperation is not only needed between countries along the African-Eurasian flyways. It is also a key requirement for the well functioning of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and its effective implementation. The AEWA formal bodies: the Secretariat in Bonn, the Standing Committee, and the Technical Committee, together form the mechanism and structure that is specifically designed to facilitate flyway conservation through cooperation between the range states.

This communication strategy has been formulated to support the AEWA in its communication both within its formal structures and between its member states. It is designed to be one of the instruments for *the Secretariat to effectively perform its facilitating role in bringing partners together to*

cooperate effectively towards the common goal of waterbird conservation along the African-Eurasian flyways.

What this strategy will not do
AEWA is a relatively young International Agreement that has known fast growth in its initial years. It has a small, understaffed Secretariat, and limited room for budgetary manoeuvre. At the same time it is embedded in an international context where several parties and partners are active in communication for wetland and waterbird conservation (Box 1).

This strategy will not replicate what others are doing or planning to work on in the coming years. This communication strategy will set priorities for the AEWA Secretariat, will identify which part of the AEWA communication wish-list is already covered by others, and for which parts the Secretariat could possibly facilitate or support initiatives to be carried out by others.

Priority focus: spider in the web
In line with the above, this communication strategy will guide the AEWA towards a focus on *process facilitation*, to redefine its role as a *'spider in the web'* of flyway conservation. It urges the Agreement to identify partners, cherish the AEWA ambassadors among them, reach out through intermediaries, and delegate tasks to those who are at the appropriate place to carry them out.

The communication strategy aims for AEWA to initiate, facilitate and to support communication through improved cooperation between its formal bodies and its contracting parties in their effort to implement the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement.

BOX 1: PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION

AEWA, as a convention, knows many parties and partners in flyway conservation. Although not exhaustive, several main partners have been listed in Box 1. A short description of the (possible) role of each partner in AEWA communication can be found in Annex 1.

The Convention on Migratory Species
The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
The Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES
The Barcelona Convention (RAC/ SPA)
The Bern Convention
The Convention on Artic Flora and Fauna
The United Nations
The European Union
The Council of Europe
Wetlands International
Birdlife International
CIC
OMPO
IUCN
The Contracting Parties

Messages
Through its communication strategy, AEWA would like to get the following messages across *(primary target audience between brackets):*

"Migratory waterbirds are part of global biodiversity. Their conservation is dependent on international cooperation, requiring intensive partnership building between organisations, countries and regions." *(Range States and Contracting Parties, partner organisations; general public)*

"AEWA is unique in its integral approach of migratory bird conservation along the international, transboundary flyways." *(Range States)*

"The more range states are member of AEWA, the more effective the Agreement will become. Conservation results provide convincing evidence for countries to become and remain active Parties. The core activity for AEWA is implementation of the Agreement." *(Range States and Contracting Parties)*

"An Agreement is as strong as its weakest link. AEWA is an international agreement that gets its strength through cooperation and partnerships. AEWA is as active as its Parties are." *(Contracting Parties)*

"The AEWA Secretariat functions as a 'spider in the web', as it has the role of facilitating the AEWA Contracting Parties to come together and develop (regional) partnerships in conservation of migratory birds. The Secretariat cherishes the ambassadorship of partners assisting to promote AEWA." *(Contracting Parties)*

"Structural and effective implementation of communication support will increase effective management and is therefore a worthwhile investment for AEWA to pursue and for the MOP to support. Structural funding is required for the communication of AEWA." *(Contracting Parties, donors)*

BOX 2: AEWA MESSAGES IN KEY WORDS

In short, AEWA can be characterised by the following key words and sentences. These key words will form the core of AEWA communication messages:

1. International Cooperation
2. Unique in its integral approach
3. The more range states, the more effective AEWA is. The core activity is implementation
4. AEWA is as active as its Parties are
5. 'Spider in the web'
6. Communication: a worthwhile investment

3.2. Players
As can be derived from the above, the focus of the AEWA Communication strategy will be not just on the dissemination of information but on strategic cooperation and partnership building: among AEWA governing bodies, among Contracting Parties, between Contracting Parties & AEWA governing bodies, between AEWA & related conventions, between AEWA and UNEP, and among relevant players within Contracting Parties, including NGO's (see also Box 1).

Roles
The focus on cooperation has consequences for the different roles parties can play at different moments. Depending on the circumstances, requirements and objectives, one and the same party can alternatively play the role of full partner, of AEWA ambassador, or as intermediary to the Secretariat. In other circumstances, this same party can be a target group for AEWA, or an executor of a certain activity.

Consequently, for each activity the role of each player will have to be determined and agreed upon.

Key players are the AEWA formal bodies: the Secretariat, the Technical Committee, and the Standing Committee. Key players are also the AEWA Contracting Parties, their appointed Focal Points, and the responsible Ministries in the countries. In addition international NGO's and related Conventions play a key role in the implementation of AEWA. Another group that is important for the implementation of AEWA consists of the possible donors, be it large or small, permanent or ad-hoc donors. Past and present financial support has also come from among the partners mentioned in Box 1, and the Secretariat will continue to call for their support in relation to this strategy.

All the above players can take the role of partner, AEWA ambassador, or even intermediary. They can also act as executors of activities and could be target groups for AEWA Communication as well.

Key target groups consist of the range states that at this point are not yet contracting parties. AEWA aims to enlist these range states to become conservation partners for AEWA. Recruitment as such therefore remains important in the coming years.

In the countries, other players are relevant to the execution of AEWA related activities and obligations. These could be civil servants other than the appointed Focal Point, other Ministries, national NGO's, grass root organisations and local NGO's, or local (groups of) end users. These groups could be target groups, executors and even partners as well, but from the position of the Secretariat, always through other partners that act as intermediaries for the Secretariat.

3.3. Objectives, desired results & activities
The communication objectives have been formulated after consultation with the client and stakeholders[5]. The main findings relevant for the communication approach pointed in four directions:

1. Internal communication between the formal governing bodies of AEWA can be improved
2. The possibility for international cooperation for waterbird conservation needs to be better explored and funding secured, and AEWA should facilitate this by improving its external communication
3. The capacity for communication (among and between the contracting parties, as well as between the Secretariat, the AEWA formal bodies and the contacting parties) needs to be strengthened, if contracting parties are to be motivated to take stronger action.
4. AEWA, its added value, and its objectives need to be better known and understood

These four directions have been translated directly into four communication objectives for AEWA. To achieve these objectives, desired results and activities have been described, linked and elaborated in the following paragraphs.

[5] The results of that consultation have been described in the AEWA report: "Development of a Communication Strategy for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) – results of a quick scan" (Jan 2004). This report can be found on the AEWA website: www.unep-aewa.org.

Objective 1: to stimulate and increase the effective internal communication and exchange among the formal governing bodies of AEWA

This objective focuses on *the internal communication processes* among the formal bodies of the AEWA Agreement.

The quick scan revealed an expressed need to look into how the functioning of the Agreement's formal decision-making bodies could be improved, by improving communication and exchange between them. Continuous exchange between members in-between meetings is limited, and the regional representation is not considered to be effective. Through communication support, the Secretariat could facilitate exchange between the Secretariat, the Technical Committee, the Standing Committee, and the Focal Points, to feed into each other for more exchange in-between meetings and to effect true representation of regions in these meetings (MOPs, TC meetings, etc).

This objective is a prerequisite to respond effectively to the focus on implementation of the Agreement (see 1.3), but recruitment of new parties could also be a consequence. After years of working mainly on the recruitment of additional range states to become members of AEWA, it is felt that more range states will be encouraged to join AEWA when the implementation of AEWA will start to yield tangible results. Effective communication of these implementation results between the formal bodies of AEWA will further facilitate this process of recruitment.

Desired Result 1: increased quality and frequency of the internal communication and exchange among the formal governing bodies of AEWA

Activity 1.1: Increase interactivity of meetings

The quality of the discussion during official meetings, the involvement of participants in the discussions, and the commitment of these participants to follow through on outcomes of the meeting, all will be enhanced when the interactivity of the meetings will be increased.

Without compensating the formal regulations by which the meetings of Parties, of the Standing committee and the Technical committee are conducted, measures to enhance interactivity can be implemented.

- Organise thematic or regional break-out sessions, that report back to the plenary. The topics discussed in these sessions may evolve and differ per meeting. The topics should not be only technical but should also talk about issues relating to communication, exchange and cooperation.
- Report back on these discussions to the plenary and on the website.
- Develop a discussion paper on AEWA functioning as an input for discussion among the Parties, inviting Parties to think along on how to motivate critical learning leading to improved AEWA functioning.

Activity 1.2. Increase interactivity in-between meetings

The momentum that is achieved during meetings often diminishes in between meetings when participants go back to their respective countries. This means that information is not effectively shared within the region, while developments in the countries are not fed back to the participants to the meetings. People arrive at meetings ill-prepared and valuable time is lost at meetings bringing people up to date before informed decisions can be made.

- Report back on meetings on the website, including on decisions taken, on future meetings and on discussions held during the thematic break-out sessions (see activity 1.1.)

- Allow for thematic/regional discussion groups on the website (see activity 4.1. and 4.3.)
- Organise a yearly coordination meeting of the Executive Secretary, the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee and the Technical Committee (5 participants), in between the StC and TC meetings, and reporting back to the Parties on website and in the newsletter

Activity 1.3. Evaluation of regional representation in AEWA formal bodies

It is not feasible for the AEWA Secretariat to communicate with all Parties separately on a regular basis. An important function of the internal communication between the Secretariat and the AEWA formal bodies therefore is for these bodies to function as intermediaries between the Secretariat and the Parties.
For this reason, AEWA works with a form of regional representation in its bodies. Regional TC and StC members are expected to prepare regional reports and present them to their respective meetings. However the true function of representation, envisioned as functioning as the voice of a region, being aware of developments, reporting those to the meeting and being able to feed the meeting outputs back to the region, is currently not being met. Improvement would have a significant impact on internal AEWA communication and on overall AEWA functioning.

- The Secretariat is to evaluate the current system of regional representation, looking into possible rotation systems and setting up a recurring evaluation scheme
- Develop terms of reference for regional focal points
- Develop guidelines for regional focal points
- Based on the outcome of the evaluation, increase consultation effectiveness in the regions by, among others, selecting new focal points where needed, by creating web-based feedback mechanisms (see activity 4.1 and 4.3) and by initiating a regional meeting (see activity 2.1.)

Objective 2: to strengthen and/or develop mechanisms for effective external communication & cooperation between and among the AEWA stakeholders and the AEWA Secretariat

In contrast to objective 1, this objective focuses on *the external communication processes* among the Contracting Parties, Range States and other AEWA Stakeholders, as well as between them and the AEWA Secretariat. These stakeholders could increasingly play the role of partners, intermediaries and ambassadors in AEWA communication, and as such improve cooperation.

A highly valued benefit and important reason to join AEWA is the opportunities it gives countries to internationally cooperate in the field of waterbird conservation. Respondents to the quick scan feel that this cooperation could be enhanced and in order to maximise the benefits of cooperation, regional, for example species oriented initiatives could be developed between countries that share similar habitats or together provide important resources for certain species. It is felt that the Secretariat could facilitate such exchange and cooperation, and communicate its results, more effectively.

A second rationale behind this objective is the need to make use of all AEWA stakeholders (the Secretariat, inter-sessional bodies, Parties, partners, others) in implementing the Agreement and communicating about it. The Secretariat can enhance capacity for communication by sharing tasks with its range states and partner organisations, by cooperating more with other secretariats, by making more use of outsourcing, and by enlisting the help of volunteers.

Structural and operational capacity for communication depends on funding as much as initiative. Targeting possible funding partners and feed them with information is expected if communication is to become a structural part of AEWA implementation.

Desired Result 2: Mechanisms for effective external communication and cooperation between and among AEWA stakeholders and the AEWA Secretariat are operational

Activity 2.1: Regional meeting of parties

Many participants in the quick scan indicated the need for regional processes of exchange and cooperation to make AEWA implementation truly effective. The Secretariat could help to get these processes started, after which the parties involved could take over the initiative.

- The Secretariat is to initiate and organise a workshop/meeting of regional AEWA focal points, especially in those regions where lack of resources/experience has led to a weak institutional basis for AEWA implementation (to be determined, but expected priorities: African regions, Middle East, Central Asia).
- The meeting will be a working session that produces a regional action plan for cooperation, with at least 1 specific project and which may include bilateral or sub-regional agreements on cooperation.
- The meeting will also select communication focal points and produce an action plan for communication activities (see activities 3.1. and 3.2.).
- As a result, the meeting will decide upon follow-up activities to be initiated in and by the region, including (yearly) regional meetings. The Secretariat's role will be minimized from that moment onwards as the initiative will be taken over by the region.
- An important agenda item will be funding of activities in the region. Regional partners are to be sought for this purpose as well as structural international sources.
- The Secretariat may use the gathering to interview people and conduct a quick scan on evolving issues (feedback to be given on web site and in newsletter)

Activity 2.2: Exchange centres for AEWA

Aside from regional Meetings of Parties, regional centres for the exchange of information on AEWA would facilitate and even encourage Parties, other Range States and organisations to contact each other and as such would facilitate cooperation. Such centres could take the form of physical centres or virtual (web-based) centres, depending on the needs and the possibilities of each particular region.

- The Secretariat, with the assistance of the regional representatives, is to explore the feasibility of the establishments of AEWA Exchange Centres.
- Contracting Parties may volunteer to host the AEWA Exchange centre for their region.
- The Centres could play a role in the follow-up of activity 2.1.
- The Centres could assist the regional representatives to fulfil their function in the internal communication between AEWA formal bodies (activity 1.3).

Activity 2.3: Engage ambassadors to stimulate other Range states to become Contracting Parties

To target those range states that are not yet contacting parties, the Secretariat has started in recent years to enlist the help of AEWA Ambassadors: organisations that help in the recruitment of new Contracting Parties. More intensive use of ambassadors could be made, and they could be sought not only among organisations but also among Contracting Parties that are willing, that have the capacity and the credibility to convince other (neighbouring) Range States to accede. This has the added advantage of increasing involvement of Contracting Parties in AEWA affairs. In addition, countries may be especially sensitive to a neighbour asking them to accede.

- The Secretariat is to identify those among the Contracting Parties and partner organisations that could function as ambassadors to AEWA
- A budget is to be reserved for travel costs related to ambassadorship for those countries who are willing but cannot afford to make additional financial contributions

Objective 3: to build regional capacity for communication

The decision to strengthen the role of the Secretariat as a facilitator, as 'spider in the web', has the implication that a more active role is expected from the contracting parties, and others, in the implementation of communication activities in the regions. In order to support this, strengthening of the capacity for communication among those contracting parties is required. As the Secretariat does not have the resources for a full-blown capacity building programme, it is proposed to implement a series of regional Train-the Trainer programmes. In every region, one 5-day training will be conducted for a group of country representatives. After the training, they will be able to:

- Prepare a communication strategy
- Plan, manage and implement a communication activity or project
- Train others in their country in these skills, resulting in a national group of communicators
- The national groups of communicators can work on awareness raising for AEWA on a national level

Desired Result 3: Regional capacity for communication strengthened

Activity 3.1: Training of Trainers at the regional level

This Training of Trainer (ToT) approach envisions the active role of the Secretariat in providing the ToT resulting in regional core groups of communicators. Thereupon, each trainer should be capable of conducting the training in his or her own country.

- Engage a consultant to conduct the training in every region
- Development of a training manual / toolkit for participants

Activity 3.2: Facilitate follow-up on ToT at the national level

The aim of the regional Training of Trainers approach is to capacitate participants to conduct similar trainings at the national level, in order to create national groups of trained communicators. To facilitate this follow-up at the national level, the newly trained trainers should be provided with the tools to conduct the training themselves and with the tools to stay in touch with their fellow participants in other countries in order to exchange experiences and to become an active network of communication professionals.

- Engage the consultant to prepare a users manual for the participants
- Initiate an e-working group on CEPA on the AEWA website and linked to the regional exchange centres' websites (activity 2.2), consisting of the participants

Also at this point joint action planning with the GEF Flyway project is advisable.

Objective 4: to increase knowledge and awareness of AEWA, its added value and its objectives

The Secretariat, as well as the Contracting Parties, encounter difficulties in the implementation of AEWA related to the understanding of AEWA and its underlying concepts. Countries indicate that they did (do) not have enough insight in what AEWA exactly stands for, what its objectives are, and what its achievements are. Although the current communication materials are developed to address these issues, the results of the quick scan show that there is a role to play for communication to increase knowledge and understanding about AEWA.

Range states indicate in the quick scan that there are obstacles delaying or preventing their accession to AEWA that could be dealt with through communication. In addition to limited knowledge, "convention exhaustion" is a hurdle to cross. In the international convention arena, some countries perceive AEWA as "yet another agreement", and do not see enough benefit in joining. There is another communication challenge to promote the added value of AEWA more clearly, and to promote AEWA's achieved successes more strongly. In addition, clearer guidelines and guidance in the accession process is considered needed.

Desired Result 4: increased knowledge and awareness of AEWA, its added value and its objectives

Activity 4.1: Improve and maintain the AEWA Website

For AEWA, an agreement with an enormous scope and a limited capacity to serve the entire range, a functional, attractive website is a prerequisite. At this moment the site does not live up to the high expectations that people have for this tool. It is difficult to find and not easy to navigate. The website should be made more attractive, more user-friendly, more up-to-date, and more interactive. Specific improvements can be made on its primary document delivery system, its archive function and its awareness raising characteristics. A good website needs not only to be designed, but needs to be maintained. Strong emphasis needs to be put on its management and maintenance. Similar activities have been proposed under the GEF Flyway project and partners such as WI and Ramsar Bureau will be consulted as well to seek advice and to come to joint action planning in order to avoid duplication.

- Develop a strategy for web site management
- Contract consultant to re-design website.
- Appoint web manager
- Daily uploading to be done by Secretariat

Activity 4.2: Regular publication of an AEWA newsletter

People need to be kept informed. Not everyone in the AEWA working range has easy access to internet and email. The current newsletter is highly appreciated and has proven its value. Its regularity can be improved, as well as the regional inputs and languages used. For practical reasons, the frequency of the newsletter will not be increased, but will be complemented by an electronic monthly update that will not appear in hard copy. This will also increase responsiveness to emerging issues relevant to flyway conservation.

- Regular issues in current form twice a year, both in hard copy and as PDF on website
- Monthly news flashes as PDF on website and email list
- Special issues on technical issues once a year
- Include sections in the main languages: Arabic, Russian

Activity 4.3. Initiate and provide the infrastructure for e-discussion

As with Activity 4.1, similar activities have been proposed under the GEF Flyway project. Consultation with the GEF project leader will lead to joint action planning in order to avoid duplication.

- Establish an email list
- Use it for news flashes and to notify members on changes on the website
- Include discussion forum on the website
- Initiate a discussion on the need for regional/thematic working groups

Activity 4.4. Develop guidelines for accession

Both Contracting Parties and Range States considering to become Party have indicated that the procedures for accession to AEWA are not only lengthy but also complicated.

- Develop guidelines to the accession procedures (in English, French, Russian and Arabic) and distribute these among those Range States that are not yet Contracting Party to AEWA

Activity 4.5. Develop a set of resource materials for awareness raising at the national level

AEWA should provide contracting parties with materials tools to increase awareness among different stakeholders in the range states. However, they can't be tailored to cater for all different countries, issues and cultural settings. Within its capacity the Secretariat could develop a toolkit with AEWA information materials and make this available to interested Parties in electronic form for reproduction, allowing for translation and adaptation according to local insight. For the development of this toolkit, during action planning AEWA will look into existing AEWA materials and will also consult Ramsar and the GEF Flyway project to seek guidance and to avoid duplication of efforts. The toolkit could be flexible in composition and could contain:

- Prepare a toolkit, flexible in composition and adaptable by the users, containing:
    - AEWA brochure
    - AEWA poster
    - AEWA sticker
    - PowerPoint presentation on AEWA
    - The Agreement text
    - Guidelines for Accession
- Prepare a distribution strategy for the toolkit, identifying:
    - Planning for distribution
    - Regional assistance to ensure national & local distribution
    - Tactics on how to market AEWA through other organisations "in your country"
    - Draft press releases and strategy for their release

4. Funding strategy

A small part of the funding for communication is secured through the budget available through membership contributions paid by the Contracting Parties. With the development of this Communication Strategy, these Parties have acknowledged the importance of communication. However, a more strategic and structural approach in communication also requires a more structural and more substantially secured funding. The Parties and Secretariat will need to look into ways to fund the implementation of the strategy.

- Secure and increase structural funding through the membership contributions to support the three-year Action Plan
- Include (parts of) the Action Plan in the International Implementation Priorities AEWA 2006-2009 in order to motivate Contracting Parties to make additional voluntary contributions in support of AEWA communication

- Look into possibilities for funding from the region, among others at the regional meetings, to support implementation of the projected regional communication action plans (see Activity 2.1)
- Look into possibilities with current contributors and resources sharers (among Contracting Parties, related conventions, international NGO's) how these relations can be expanded or stabilised for a longer period of time
- Specifically further explore and substantiate on the identified possibilities for shared organisation of activities with the GEF Flyway project in order to economise on the implementation

5. Review Procedure

The effectiveness of implementation of the communication strategy will need to be reviewed on a regular basis. The Secretariat will need to refine the review produce to fit its capacity and planning sequences. Ideally this review be done at different levels:

- The incumbent JPO, in coordination with the AEWA Executive Secretary, monitors the implementation and the impact of the strategy twice yearly, and reports annually to the StC on its progress
- In addition, a mid term and a final evaluation of the 3-year Action Plan is prepared for the StC
- The regional representatives, in coordination with the AEWA regional communication focal points, evaluate the implementation of the regional communication action plan (produced under activity 2.1), and report yearly to the StC on its progress.

6. Communication Action Plan

The current document is a final version of the AEWA Communication Strategy. The Secretariat has chosen for a step-by step process of consultation. The strategy has been discussed and refined during a workshop organised as a side-event to the Flyway Conference in Edinburgh in April 2004. After wider consultation among AEWA interested parties in the months following the conference, this strategy has evolved.

A 4 -year action plan and budget have been added for its implementation. This action plan has been presented in a separate document to increase its flexibility in use.

The final strategy and action plan have been presented to the AEWA Standing Committee in November 2004. This meeting approved the documents and decided to present it for adoption to the Meeting of Parties in Dakar, Senegal, in November 2005.

The AEWA Secretariat wishes to thank all contributors for their valuable time and comments, which helped greatly to improve this strategy.

7. List of Acronyms

ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
ASCOBANS	Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas
BI	Birdlife International
CAFF	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIC	International Council for Game and Wildlife Organisation
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CP	Contracting Party
EU	European Union
EUROBATS	Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe
FP	Focal Point
GEF	Global Environment Facility
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MOP	Meeting of the Parties
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCP)	Non Contracting Party
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non Government Organisation
OMPO	Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental
StC	Standing Committee
TC	Technical Committee
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WI	Wetlands International

ANNEX 1: PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION

AEWA, as a convention, knows many parties and partners in flyway conservation. Although not exhaustive, several main partners have been listed in this annex, including a short description of each partner and the possible link with AEWA communication.

The Convention on Migratory Species
CMS, the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn, 1979), deals with the global conservation of migratory species. Annex 2 of CMS lists those species for which coordinated action is needed to maintain populations. This is achieved through International Agreements between states, of which AEWA is the largest example. As AEWA's mother convention, CMS shares goals and objectives as well as infrastructure. CMS and AEWA divide representation at important functions and regularly join efforts in communication.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
The Ramsar Convention (1971) on Wetlands is one of the oldest international environmental conventions. At the core of its programme is the concept of wise use of wetlands, and therefore the relationships of people with wetlands and wetland functioning. The convention introduced the term CEPA: Communication, Education and Public Awareness. Ramsar works with a network of CEPA Focal Points, both in governments and NGO's, and has an interactive, well-esteemed website through which it offers to cooperate more strongly with AEWA.

The Convention on Biological Diversity
The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) deals with all ecosystems around the globe. CBD has entered into a Memorandum of Cooperation and concluded an Joint Work Programme with CMS, the mother convention of AEWA. In addition, the Convention of Parties of CBD has asked its Executive Secretariat to develop a proposal on how migratory species could be integrated into the CBD work programme. Following the Ramsar Convention, CBD adopted the term CEPA in its Convention text in 2001.

CITES
The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between Governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Similar to flyway conservation, the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, requiring international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation. Like CMS, CITES is administered by UNEP.

The Bern Convention
The Council of Europe Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats - also known as the Bern Convention - aims to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those whose conservation requires the co-operation of several States, and to promote such co-operation. In relation to CMS and AEWA, particular emphasis is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species.

Conservation of Artic Flora and Fauna
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) is a Working Group of the Arctic Council. It's mission is to conserve Arctic biodiversity and to ensure that the use of Arctic living resources is sustainable. CAFF serves as a forum of Arctic professionals, indigenous peoples representatives, and observer countries and organisations, to discuss and address circumpolar Arctic conservation issues. Since 1992, CAFF has sponsored several projects, including assessments of the conservation status of Arctic migratory birds.

The United Nations
Being administered by UNEP, AEWA can coordinate with the different relevant UN units for communication: UNEP Nairobi, where the Division of Communication and Public Information hosts UNEP's website (with a recently renewed website strategy and publication strategy) and UNEP/DEC Information Unit on Conventions (Geneva) for work on websites, press releases, leaflets, design and management.

The European Union
The main challenge for the EU is to protect the environment in combination with continuing economic growth in a way, which is sustainable over the long term. The Action Programme Environment 2001 - 2010: Our Future, Our Choice, lists the four thematic priorities: (1) tackling climate change and global warming; (2) protecting the natural habitat and wildlife; (3) addressing environment and health issues; and (4) preserving natural resources and managing waste.

The Council of the European Union
The Council is the main decision-making body of the European Union, in which the ministers of the member states meet. In the environment meetings of the Council of Europe, Environment Ministers of the EU member states develop policy agreements and decide on directives, such as for example the bird and habitats directives. The Council is also responsible for coordination and, on behalf of the Community and the Union, concludes international agreements between the EU and one or more states or international organisations.

Wetlands International
Gerard Boere of Wetland International (WI), one of the founding fathers of AEWA, describes the Convention paradox: conventions are concluded by government organisations but usually become operational through NGO's. WI is an important partner in the implementation of AEWA, including work on communication. In the coming years it will implement the *GEF flyway project* which, through its communication component, will focus on demonstration projects to show best practice (1), on mechanisms for communications for governments and NGO's (2), and on mechanisms for exchange between and within sub-regions along the flyway (3). In addition, it aims to improve understanding and implementation for wise-sue of migratory waterbirds and wetlands by stakeholders (4).

Birdlife International
Birdlife International is one of the oldest NGO's working on bird conservation and is a major implementing partner in the GEF Flyway project. BI is a semi-permanent observer at the AEWA TC and StC Meetings. BI has a strong network of partners and offices, through which the accession to AEWA is also advocated.

CIC
The International Council for Game and Wildlife Organisation (CIC) through its commission on migratory birds carries out its own research or supports relevant projects of organizations with the same aims, like WI or IUCN. CIC is represented in the boards of these organizations as well as in the Technical Committee of AEWA, and CMS.

OMPO
The organisation "Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental" (OMPO: Migratory Birds of the Western Palaearctic) is a France –based organisation active in migratory bird conservation. OMPO is communicating AEWA strongly in e.g. Baltic States. The Secretariat has identified OMPO as an Ambassador for AEWA in that region.

IUCN - The World Conservation Union
IUCN's mission is "to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable." IUCN is a union that brings together over 1000 states and organisations. In six commissions, thousands of professional volunteers contribute to policy and technical advice, monitoring and much more. The IUCN Commission on Education and Communication champions CEPA among conventions and provides expertise for capacity development in this field.

The Contracting Parties
A convention is as active as its Parties. Especially an International Agreement with the scale of AEWA, regional differences require regional initiatives and regional communication and exchange flows. The AEWA Secretariat can provide tools and guidance; the countries should work on implementation of communication for AEWA at the national and regional level.

ANNEX 2

AEWA Communication Action Plan 2006-2009

		When & where				Remarks on Budget
		2006	2007	2008	2009	
Result 1: Internal communication						
Activity 1.1.	Interactivity of meetings	StC (Bonn) TC (tbc)	StC (Bonn) TC (tbc)	MOP 4 (tbc) StC (Bonn) TC (tbc)	StC (Bonn) TC (tbc)	Acceptability of facilitator for official meetings to be assessed.
Activity 1.2.	Interactivity in-between meetings	May be linked to StC (Bonn)	May be linked to StC (Bonn)	May be linked to StC (Bonn)	May be linked to StC (Bonn)	When linked to StC, travel costs can be disregarded, one night DSA needs to be added
Activity 1.3.	Evaluation regional representation	Evaluation, ToR & guidelines		Evaluation		

Result 2: external communication

Budget may need to be included in IIP 2006-2009*

Activity 2.1.	Regional MOP (in 5 regions)	(1) West Africa (2) East Africa	(3) Middle East (4) Central Asia	(5) Europe		When linked to GEF Flyway meetings, travel costs can be reduced (either this or 3.1)
Activity 2.2.	Exchange centres for AEWA	Feasibility study, followed by implementation in:	(1) West Africa (2) East Africa	(3) Middle East (4) Central Asia	(5) Europe	
Activity 2.3.	Engage AEWA Ambassadors	Priorities: Russia, Baltic states, Central Asia, Africa	Central Asia, Middle East, Africa	Africa	Africa	Budget decreases assuming targeted countries will start accession procedure

Result 3: Capacity Building

Budget may need to be included in IIP 2006-2009*

Activity 3.1.	Regional Training of Trainers	(1) West Africa (2) East Africa	(3) Middle East (4) Central Asia	(5) Europe		When linked to GEF Flyway meetings, travel costs can be reduced (either this or 2.1)
Activity 3.2.	Facilitate national follow up					

Result 4: AEWA Awareness Raising

Activity 4.1.	AEWA Website	Revision done in 2004. Yearly maintenance required.	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	
Activity 4.2.	AEWA Newsletter	2 regular and 1 special issue per year.	2 regular and 1 special issue per year.	2 regular and 1 special issue per year.	2 regular and 1 special issue per year.	
Activity 4.3.	E-discussions					
Activity 4.4.	Accession guidelines	Produced in 2004 Distribution	Distribution	Distribution	Distribution	
Activity 4.5.	Toolkit for national level	(Re)production & distribution	(Re)production & distribution	(Re)pro-duction & distribution	(Re)pro-duction & distribution	

* IIP 2006-2009 - AEWA's International Implementation Priorities 2006-2009

AEWA Communication budget 2006-2009 (EUR)

			2006	2007	2008	2009		
Result 1: Internal communication			**€ 5,490**	**€ 5,490**	**€ 7,740**	**€ 5,490**		
		Activity 1.1.	4050	4050	6300	4050		
		Activity 1.2.	1440	1440	1440	1440		
		Activity 1.3.	0	0	0	0		
Result 2: external communication			**€ 60,700**	**€ 63,100**	**€ 33,750**	**€ 4,200**		
		Activity 2.1.	54300	54300	27150	0		
		Activity 2.2.	400	4800	4600	2200		
		Activity 2.3.	6000	4000	2000	2000		
Result 3: Capacity Building			**€ 68,700**	**€ 63,300**	**€ 31,650**	**€ 0**		
		Activity 3.1.	66000	60600	30300	0		
		Activity 3.2.	2700	2700	1350	0		
Result 4: AEWA Awareness Raising			**€ 43,380**	**€ 35,690**	**€ 38,505**	**€ 35,065**		
		Activity 4.1.	2940	2500	2940	2500		
		Activity 4.2.	27000	27000	27000	27000		
		Activity 4.3.	440	440	440	440		
		Activity 4.4.	0	0	0	0		
		Activity 4.5.	13000	5750	8125	5125		
Total budget AEWA Communication			**€ 178,270**	**€ 167,580**	**€ 111,645**	**€ 44,755**		**€ 502,250**

ANNEX 3

Result 1: Internal communication									**Yearly distribution**			
Activity									**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
1.1.	**Interactivity of meetings**	**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**					
a.	Facilitator TC (incl. 1 day prep, 1 day reporting)	Consultancy	day	5	1	450	2250		2250	2250	2250	2250
b.	Facilitator MOP 4	Consultancy	day	5	1	450	2250		0	0	2250	0
c.	Facilitator StC	Consultancy	day	4	1	450	1800		1800	1800	1800	1800
d.	Extra break-out room	Provided by host (country)										
e.	Report on website	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
f.	Draft discussion paper	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
g.	Evaluation & revision	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
						Sum activity 1.1.			**€ 4,050**	**€ 4,050**	**€ 6,300**	**€ 4,050**
1.2.	**Interactivity in-between meetings**	**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**					
a.	Report meetings on website	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
b.	Web manager to create page on site	See budget Result 4										
c.	Yearly coordination meeting	Int'l transport	ticket	1	1	1000	1000		1000	1000	1000	1000
		DSA	night	2	1	220	440		440	440	440	440
		Venue provided by host country										
						Sum activity 1.2.			**€ 1,440**	**€ 1,440**	**€ 1,440**	**€ 1,440**
1.3.	**Evaluation regional representation**	**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**					
a.	Evaluate current system	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
b.	Develop ToR	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
c.	Develop guidelines, evaluation & revision	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
						Sum activity 1.3.			**€ 0**	**€ 0**	**€ 0**	**€ 0**
			Total for Result 1: Internal Communication						**€ 5,490**	**€ 5,490**	**€ 7,740**	**€ 5,490**

Result 2: External communication												
Activity									**Yearly distribution**			
2.1.	**Regional MOP (in 5 regions)***	**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**		**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
a.	Coordinate organisation of meeting	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)					0					
	(invitations, programme, logistics etc.)											
b.	Facilitator	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)					0					
c.	Organise meeting per region	Int'l travel	ticket	1	3	1000	3000		6000	6000	3000	-
	(budget shows total for 5 regions)	Sub- regional travel	ticket	1	17	500	8500		17000	17000	8500	-
		Accommodation	night	4	20	75	6000		12000	12000	6000	-
		Other: visa, insurance	lump sum			1500	1500		3000	3000	1500	-
		Terminal costs	tax	2	20	30	1200		2400	2400	1200	-
		Per Diem	night	4	20	50	4000		8000	8000	4000	-
		Venue to be provided by host country					0		0	0	0	-
		Lunch & breaks	day	4	20	15	1200		2400	2400	1200	-
		Meeting material (stationary)	lump sum			250	250		500	500	250	-
		Meeting proceedings	lump sum			1500	1500		3000	3000	1500	-
						Sum activity 2.1.			**€ 54,300**	**€ 54,300**	**€ 27,150**	**€ 0**
2.2.	**Exchange Centres for AEWA**	**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**					
a.	Coordination Feasibility study	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)					0					
	Execution Feasibility study	Regional reps	lump telecom	1	1	200	200		400	400	200	-
b.	Identify hosts centres	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)					0					
	Establish regional centres	Web site design**	lump	1	1	2200	2200		-	4400	4400	2200
		Web maintenance to be provided by host country					0					
		Help desk to be provided by host country					0					
						Sum activity 2.2.			**€ 400**	**€ 4,800**	**€ 4,600**	**€ 2,200**

2.3.	Engage AEWA Ambassadors			Item	unit	# units	# people	price/unit	total					
a.	Identify Ambassadors			JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)					0					
b.	Assist Ambassadorship			Travel costs	tickets	2	1	1000	2000		6000	4000	2000	2000
									0					
								Sum activity 2.3.			**€ 6,000**	**€ 4,000**	**€ 2,000**	**€ 2,000**
					Total for Result 2: External Communication						**€ 60,700**	**€ 63,100**	**€ 33,750**	**€ 4,200**
* the 5 regions that are considered here are : West Africa, East Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia (4 priority regions), and Europe														
** calculation budget estimate for a website, including initial basic maintenance costs														
				cost in euro										
		phase 1	Definition	-										
		phase 2	Design	800										
		phase 3	Collecting, approving and submitting finalized content	-										
		phase 4	Implementation	1400										
		phase 5	Maintenance	300										
		total		2500										

Result 3: Capacity Building									**Yearly distribution**			
Activity									**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
3.1.	**Regional Training of Trainers**	**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**					
a.	Coordinate organisation of training (invitations, programme, logistics etc.)	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)					0					
b.	Training design (by Trainer)	Consultancy	day	6	1	450	2700		5400	-	-	-
c.	Training preps + report	Consultancy	day	3	1	450	1350		2700	2700	1350	-
d.	Trainer	Consultancy	day	4	1	450	1800		3600	3600	1800	-
e.	Organise training per region	Int'l travel	ticket	1	3	1000	3000		6000	6000	3000	-
		Sub- regional travel	ticket	1	17	500	8500		17000	17000	8500	-
		Accommodation	night	4	20	75	6000		12000	12000	6000	-
		Other: visa, insurance	lump sum			1500	1500		3000	3000	1500	-
		Terminal cost		2	20	30	1200		2400	2400	1200	-
		Per Diem	night	4	20	50	4000		8000	8000	4000	-
		Venue to be provided by host country							0	0	0	-
		Lunch & breaks	day	4	20	15	1200		2400	2400	1200	-
		Meeting material (stationary)	lump sum			250	250		500	500	250	-
		Manual/Meeting proceedings	lump sum			1500	1500		3000	3000	1500	-
						Sum activity 3.1.			**€ 66,000**	**€ 60,600**	**€ 30,300**	**€ 0**
3.2.	**Facilitate national follow up**	**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**					
a.	Consolidate regional users manual	Consultancy	day	2	1	450	900		1800	1800	900	-
b.	Help desk (distance)	Consultancy	day	1	1	450	450		900	900	450	-
c.	National training	To be provided by host country					0					
d.	Regional E-working group	See budget activity 2.2.b.										
	on AEWA Centres' web											
						Sum activity 3.2.			**€ 2,700**	**€ 2,700**	**€ 1,350**	**€ 0**
				Total for Result 3: Capacity Building					**€ 68,700**	**€ 63,300**	**€ 31,650**	**€ 0**

Result 4: Awareness Raising									**Yearly distribution**			
Activity									**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
4.1.	**AEWA Website***	**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**					
a.	Strategy/proposal to make website interactive	Sub contracting	hour	16	1	55	880		880	-	-	-
b.	Design & construction interactive website	Sub contracting	hour	40	1	55	2200		2200	-	-	-
c.	Maintenance	Sub contracting	lump sum				2500		2500	2500	2500	2500
d.	Content management training workshop**	Sub contracting	hour	8	1	55	440		440	-	440	-
e.	Content maintenance	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
	* Website restructuring is part of the AEWA Communication strategy.											
	As part of the implementation is foreseen for 2004, only partial budget (to make website interactive) has been included here.											
	** Training of AEWA Staff (JPO)											
						Sum activity 4.1.			**€ 6,020**	**€ 2,500**	**€ 2,940**	**€ 2,500**
4.2.	**AEWA Newsletter**	**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**					
a.	Collection & editing	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
b.	Monthly e-flashes	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
c.	Translation	Consultancy	lump sum				3000		9000	9000	9000	9000
d.	Design & production regular newsletter (2/year)	Sub contracting	lump sum				5000		15000	15000	15000	15000
	2 regular issues & 1 special issue per year											
e.	Distribution	Postage	lump sum				1000		3000	3000	3000	3000
						Sum activity 4.2.			**€ 27,000**	**€ 27,000**	**€ 27,000**	**€ 27,000**
4.3.	**E-discussions**	**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**					
a.	Establish e-list	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)							-	-	-	-
b.	Establish discussion fora	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)							-	-	-	-
c.	Establish working groups	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)							-	-	-	-
d.	Maintenance	Sub contracting	hour	8	1	55	440		440	440	440	440
						Sum activity 4.3.			**€ 440**	**€ 440**	**€ 440**	**€ 440**

4.4.	**Accession Guidelines**		**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**					
	The development & distribution of accession guidelines is part of the AEWA Communication Strategy.												
	As implementation is foreseen for 2004, no budget has been included here.												
							Sum activity 4.4.			**€ 0**	**€ 0**	**€ 0**	**€ 0**
4.5.	**Toolkit for National level**		**Item**	**unit**	**# units**	**# people**	**price/unit**	**total**					
a.	Poster	Content	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
		Design & Production	Consultancy lump sum					4500		4500	4500	4500	4500
b.	Sticker	Content	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
		Design & production	Consultancy lump sum					3000		3000		3000	
c.	PPP presentation	Content	JPO Staff task (no additional budget required)										
		Translation	Sub contracting	lump per language				500		1500			
		Design & (re)production CD Rom	Sub contracting	CD-Rom	250	1	5	1250		2500	1250	625	625
d.	Agreement Text	Translation	Sub contracting	lump per language				500		1500			
		Production CD-Rom	Same as 4.5.c. (no additional budget required)										
Note: the AEWA Anniversary in 2005 is an important awareness raising moment.							**Sum activity 4.5.**			**€ 13,000**	**€ 5,750**	**€ 8,125**	**€ 5,125**
No budget has been included here as this action plan covers 2006-2009 only.													
					Total for Result 4: Awareness Raising					**€ 46,460**	**€ 35,690**	**€ 38,505**	**€ 35,065**

RESOLUTION 3.11

AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES FOR 2006 - 2008

Recalling Resolution 2.4 on International Implementation Priorities for the Agreement for the period 2003-2007,

Being encouraged by the good progress in the implementation of the previously adopted International Implementation Priorities for 2000-2004 and for 2003-2007,

Appreciating the support provided by the Global Environment Facility to implement the major project "Enhancing Conservation of the Critical Network of Wetlands Required by Migratory Waterbirds on the African-Eurasian Flyways",

Further appreciating the support provided by Contracting Parties, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations for the implementation of the International Implementation Priorities 2003-2007,

Noting the conclusions of the review of status of migratory waterbirds within the Agreement area which, *inter alia* highlighted the critical status of several globally threatened species and the poor status of wader populations - three times as many of which are in decline as are increasing,

Recalling the need for pro-active and targeted conservation measures so as to achieve the target set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010,

Reaffirming the particular importance of:

(a) the contribution that conservation of migratory waterbirds and the wise use of their wetland habitats can make to sustainable development, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

(b) the need to identify functional networks of key sites through an understanding of the migratory flyways of populations covered by the Agreement, and

(c) the need to support the maintenance of the International Waterbird Census in Europe and its further development in Africa, the Middle East, East and Central Asia as the basis of assessing the international status and trends of waterbird populations and thus the effective implementation of the Agreement.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the International Implementation Priorities for 2006-2008, as contained in document, AEWA/MOP 3.18 appended to this Resolution, which is updated and amended on the basis of the International Implementation Priorities adopted for 2003-2007 as the medium-term priorities for international co-operation activities for implementation of the Agreement;

2. *Urges* Contracting Parties and specialised international organisations to support ongoing projects and, where appropriate, to develop new international co-operation projects for the implementation of the Agreement, according to the priorities outlined in AEWA/MOP 3.18, to keep the Agreement Secretariat fully informed of progress, and to report conclusions at future Meetings of the Parties;

3. *Further urges* Contracting Parties, the Agreement Secretariat and specialised international organisations to seek innovative mechanisms and partnerships to enable implementation of the priorities listed in AEWA/MOP 3.18, in particular by providing matching funds to the full African-Eurasian

Flyways project, including joint ventures, twinning arrangements, secondments and exchange programmes, corporate sector sponsorships and species adoption programmes;

4. *Requests* bilateral and multilateral donors to provide financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of the Agreement, by supporting implementation of the priorities listed in AEWA/MOP 3.18;

5. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat to disseminate the International Implementation Priorities for 2006-2008 (AEWA/MOP 3.18), to co-ordinate closely with related conventions and international organisations for their implementation, to seek appropriate donors;

6. *Requests* the Technical Committee to review the structure of the International Implementation Priorities to enhance their responsiveness to key and emerging issues identified by the next review of waterbird status and trends and the other international context reviews specified in paragraph 7.4 of the Action Plan, and to undertake this task alongside the assessment of these reviews as specified in paragraph 7.6 of the Action Plan.

Appendix I

AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES FOR 2006-2008

INTRODUCTION

1. The following list of priority activities has been established to assist Contracting Parties, donors and other stakeholders to further the implementation of the Action Plan of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds during the period 2006-2008.

2. At the first session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Agreement, which took place from 6 to 9 November 1999 in Cape Town (South Africa), the international implementation priorities (IIP) for 2000-2004 were adopted in Resolution 1.4. Updated IIP for 2003-2007 were adopted with Resolution 2.4 at MOP2 in Bonn in September 2002. The current proposal for IIP 2006-2008 represents a reviewed and upgraded list of activities from the previous IIP 2003-2007.

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES 2003-2007 AS THE BASIS

3. In a separate document (AEWA/MOP 3.10) the implementation status of the priorities over the period 2003-2007 is presented, focussing on actions undertaken or in progress within the AEWA framework (more may have been undertaken by individual countries or other agencies in a different context). Document AEWA/MOP 3.10 shows that although there was considerable progress, many priorities have not yet been implemented, mainly because of a lack of funding. Priorities that have been or are currently being implemented do not re-appear in the present list of 2006-2008 priorities.

CONSULTATION

4. In order to identify necessary changes and additions that were needed to the existing implementation priorities, the AEWA Secretariat set up a wide consultation. The updated list of activities is based on an extensive consultation with the Range States, NGOs, scientific institutes and consultants. Comments and proposals were received from three Range States, two NGOs, one scientific institute and two consultants. However some of them were irrelevant to IIP as they reflected priority activities at national level only. Although quite a few of the activities from the list as adopted in 1999 and updated in 2002 have been implemented, the remaining list of activities is still valid. The present list of priorities was reviewed and approved for submission to MOP3 by the Technical Committee and by the Standing Committee.

NATURE OF SUGGESTED CHANGES

5. The external consultation network has proposed no suggestions to change existing priorities, while a number of additional priority activities were suggested. This initial list of additional projects was reviewed by the Technical Committee at its 6th meeting and was reduced or some proposals were slightly modified to extend their scope (e.g. training courses on migratory waterbird conservation). The Technical Committee also introduced several other modifications: the wording of some of the previous priorities that remained in the document, especially such that are matching funding for the GEF project, was enhanced to better reflect their current status; two of the previous priorities (guidelines on satellite telemetry and on telemetry in waterbirds) were merged into one priority.

ORDER AND FORMAT OF PRESENTATION

6. As in the previous versions, the presentation of the priorities in the present document follows the headings of the Action Plan to the Agreement. The number(s) in parentheses after each priority title refer(s) to the relevant paragraph of the Agreement's Action Plan. The order of presentation does not reflect any order of priority.

7. For each priority, an indicative budget and timescale is presented for guidance, along with the types of activity involved. It should be noted that the budgets are only indicative. Detailed project proposals and budgets to meet each priority will be required at a later stage and should be the basis for the final fund-raising.

DISCUSSION

8. The priorities include only those requiring international cooperation, and are not intended to reflect national implementation priorities, which must be determined by each Contracting Party and could include more on-the-ground conservation activities. A number of the proposals underlined the importance of such activities. Five types of international cooperation will be appropriate in addressing these priorities:

   (a) Exchange/transfer of information;

   (b) Research, surveys and monitoring;

   (c) Exchange/transfer of expertise;

   (d) Financial assistance;

   (e) Transboundary drafting and implementation of action plans.

AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES FOR 2006-2008

A. SPECIES CONSERVATION

1. Implement existing international single species action plans (AP 2.2.1, 7.4)
Prior to the entry into force of the Agreement, a number of international single species action plans relevant to Paragraph 2.2.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan had already been developed (by BirdLife International, Wetlands International and the International Crane Foundation). These include action plans for: *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Anser erythropus*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Polysticta stellerii*, *Grus leucogeranus, Fulica cristata*, *Numenius tenuirostris, Larus audouinii*, and *Sterna dougallii*. (NB: Several of these action plans cover the European part of the range of the species only, and a priority is to extend them to cover their full range within the Agreement area (see next item). A number of international single species action plans were also adopted by MOP2 and MOP3 of AEWA, namely for *Vanellus gregarius*, *Glareola nordmanni*, *Gallinago media, Oxyura leucocephala, Crex crex, Aythya nyroca, Geronticus eremita,* and *Branta bernicla hrota* (East Canadian High Arctic population), and a number of action plans are under preparation or are being updated, including intra-African migrants such as *Oxyura maccoa*, *Anser erythropus,* and *Branta bernicla bernicla.* Whilst many of the actions identified for these species will have to be undertaken and financed at national or local level, a budget is required for international coordination and promotion, and to provide small grants for national and local initiatives.

Indicative budget:	€ 50,000 min./species/year (for coordination/grants)
Duration:	Annual, ongoing
Activities:	Coordination, small grants, evaluation, reporting

2. Develop new international single species action plans (AP 2.2.1, 7.4)
New international single species action plans need to be developed as a priority for the populations listed in category 1, column A, Table 1 to the Agreement Action Plan, and for those species listed with an asterisk in column A of Table 1. Production and format of the action plans should follow the recommendations given in the relevant conservation guidelines. As soon as the new action plans are completed for each species, implementation should begin. In view of the large number of action plans to be prepared, it is strongly recommended that the most urgent attention be given to globally threatened species. Furthermore, it is recommended that individual Range States agree to take the lead on development of individual action plans (as an in-kind contribution to the Agreement), in close cooperation with the other Range States of each species (coordination of plan development including workshops, drafting, consultation and publication of each plan). Plans should be submitted to the Technical Committee in draft form for final approval, to ensure harmonization and quality control.

Indicative budget:	€ 40,000 per species for action plan preparation
Duration:	12 months per plan
Activities:	Coordination, workshop, planning, publication

B. HABITAT CONSERVATION

3. Identify all sites of international importance for AEWA species (AP 3.1.2, 7.4)
A vital piece of information for the conservation of any migratory species is an understanding of the network of key sites required to sustain their populations throughout the year. A large body of information already exists concerning key sites for migratory waterbirds (that is, sites which meet the Ramsar criteria of international importance for waterbirds and Important Bird Areas). This information has largely been collected through the International Waterbird Census of Wetlands International, but also through BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas programme and Endemic Bird Areas programme, wetland inventories (particularly the Directory of Wetlands of the Middle East) and one-off surveys of remote areas. It is proposed to compile from these various existing sources a "matrix" of key sites by species, which will show all known internationally important sites for each species covered by the Agreement. This matrix will be made available in database form through the World Wide Web as a planning, conservation and awareness tool. The successful presentation of the results of this activity depends on the completion of implementation priority number 4.

Indicative budget:	€ 125,000
Duration:	2 years
Activities:	Desk study, review, database, web site

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

4. Creating an interactive tool that presents information on important sites for migratory waterbirds (AP 3.1.2, 7.4)
Currently large amounts of data exist in databases on migratory waterbirds (International Waterbird Census) and the sites they depend upon in the AEWA region (Important Bird Areas, Ramsar database). These data reside with the custodians and are not inter-operable at the moment. This hampers the interactive application of these data for flyway conservation purposes. Development of a web-based portal that can integrate data on sites of critical importance to migratory waterbirds from these dispersed sources and that provides the option of interactive data submission through the web, is a priority.

A condition for increasing the 'inter-operability' of essential databases like the International Waterbird Census database and the Important Bird Areas database, but also the Ramsar database, is that they have common geographic references, in the form of digitized boundaries. These do not currently exist to a significant extent and considerable work will need to be done to create these, especially for the International Waterbird Census database. This will be a key activity in creating the tool.

Indicative budget:	€ 215,000
Duration:	4 years
Activities:	Gathering of reliable map data, coordination, data input (digitization of boundaries); database adaptation, portal development, data management, maintenance

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways to be launched in 2005.

5. Identify priority areas for further survey work (AP 3.1, 7.4)
Based on the study undertaken in implementation priority number 3 above, a gap analysis should be undertaken to identify sites/regions where migratory waterbirds would particularly benefit from further surveys. This would be achieved by compiling species-specific maps and overall summary maps, assessing the networks of sites and identify areas with weak coverage in these networks. In addition species experts and national focal points will be asked to comment on the analyses of these maps and to identify areas of potential importance for migratory waterbirds, but for which survey data are lacking. This would also include identification of areas important for dispersed species (e.g., waders and *Anatidae* during their breeding season) or very large, complex or composite sites. The results will be used both to stimulate additional census work, be it in the form enhanced national censuses or in the form of "expeditions" in remote areas, as well as to identify countries which would most benefit from a national wetlands inventory programme.

Indicative budget: € 50,000
Duration: 2 years
Activities: Desk study, consultation, review, publication, survey proposals

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

6. Identify priority areas for better protection (AP 3.2, 7.4)
Based on the study undertaken in implementation priority number 3 above, the key sites maps and matrix will be examined to ascertain the degree of existing protection of each site under both international and national legislation. At the international level, this will be achieved by comparison with existing databases on protected areas, e.g. the Ramsar sites database (maintained by Wetlands International), the Natura 2000/Special Programme of Action databases of the European Commission, and the protected areas database (maintained by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre). At national level, information will also be requested from national focal points for the Agreement. The results will be used to assess whether adequate site protection measures are in place to maintain each species under the Agreement in a favourable conservation status. Specific recommendations will be made for species where the network of key sites is thought to be inadequately protected. The study will also list those key sites which are shared between two or more countries, and which require special cooperation measures for effective management.

Indicative budget: € 70,000
Duration: 2 years
Activities: Desk study, review, publication, and recommendations

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

7. Habitat Priorities for waterbirds, particularly in Africa and South-west Asia (AP 3.2, 3.3)
The BirdLife International project Habitats for Birds in Europe has made an important contribution to defining habitat conservation priorities for birds in Europe. This now needs to be further elaborated and made much more specific for waterbird habitats. Furthermore it needs to be extended to Africa and South-west Asia, where habitat requirements are much less well known. The project should result in a series of habitat action plans containing prioritized recommendations and costed projects for each key habitat type. Severely threatened habitats, and habitats of importance to globally threatened species, should be given priority.

Indicative budget: € 200,000
Duration: 3 years
Activities: Desk study, review, workshops, publication, project proposals

8. Restoration and rehabilitation techniques for waterbird habitats, particularly in Africa (AP 3.3)

There has been significant loss and degradation of waterbird habitats throughout the Agreement area. Techniques are relatively well developed for the restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands in temperate regions, but are poorly developed or known for wetlands in the tropics. It is therefore proposed to draw together the available information to produce two manuals (one for temperate and one for tropical areas), including information on the sources of available expertise. Close coordination will be necessary with existing work under the Ramsar Convention. Because of the paucity of information on restoration of tropical waterbird habitats, a special project will be launched to undertake demonstration restoration measures for a small number of African wetlands. These will also be used as a focus for training activities. Restoration techniques will focus on low-cost, low technology management options.

Indicative budget:	€ 60,000 per manual € 80,000 minimum for each demonstration project
Duration:	18 months for the manuals
Activities:	Manuals, demonstration projects, training courses

9. Conservation programme of migratory bird roosting sites located in the Albertine Rift region (Eastern Africa) (AP 3.2.3, 3.2.4)[1]

The Albertine Rift region is an important north-south flyway for migratory birds from Europe heading to their wintering places in the southern part of the African Continent. This part of Eastern Africa counts numerous important bird areas (IBAs), which make the Albertine Rift a global biodiversity hotspot. Two important factors weighing on the conservation status of these sites are extremely high human population densities and poverty that is rampant in the Albertine Rift region and neighbouring areas. Due to human pressure, all IBAs of the region face the following problems: encroachment for settlement, agriculture, cattle breeding and grazing, poaching, illegal harvesting, bush fires during the dry season etc., so that actually all these sites are becoming more and more degraded.

To overcome all above-mentioned problems and threats and contribute to poverty alleviation in the region, a conservation programme concerning protected and non-protected IBAs, led essentially by local populations including communities and local and traditional authorities, is intended in the respective countries, i.e. Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Identification of strategies and mechanisms for contributing to livelihood improvement of local people and safeguarding the ecosystem qualities of IBAs is expected, as well as efficient collaboration of riparian communities with national and regional conservation authorities.

Indicative budget:	€ 712,000; four fifth of total amount (€ 570,000) to be sourced from AEWA
Duration:	3 years
Activities:	Coordination of collaborators, analysis

[1] This is a new international implementation priority added by MOP3.

C. MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES

10. Evaluation of waterbird harvests in the Agreement area (AP 4.1, 5.7)
Waterbirds are harvested widely throughout the Agreement area for sport, trade and subsistence (including by indigenous people) and thus have importance for local economies. However, little is known of the scale of such harvesting, particularly in Africa and South-west Asia, nor of the impacts that such harvesting has on waterbird populations. The effects of wounding of waterbirds by hunters remain little known and would be a valuable subject for study. It is therefore proposed to examine the location, scale (by species), methods and impacts of waterbird harvesting throughout the Agreement area, but with a particular focus on poorly known regions. The project will identify areas, methods or species where harvesting may be unsustainable and require intervention, and will feed into the development of future monitoring programmes. The taking of live waterbirds for collections and zoos should be included in this work.

Indicative budget: € 200,000 (can be split into 4-5 sub-projects on a regional basis)
Duration: 3 years
Activities: Reviews, research, survey, publications

11. Review of the use of non-toxic shot for waterbird hunting (AP 4.1.4)
The International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (now Wetlands International) workshop on Lead Poisoning in Waterfowl (Brussels, 1991), was a landmark event for actions which have subsequently taken place to reduce the impact of lead poisoning in waterbirds. A follow-up international workshop was organised in 2001 in Central Europe, in close cooperation between the AEWA Secretariat, international hunting organisations and others, to share the most up-to-date information on this subject. Wetlands International published an updated report on the implementation of the ban of lead shot. A further workshop is needed in Southern Europe and the update review/reports undertaken by Wetlands International should be continued.

Indicative budget: € 50,000 (workshop); € 50,000 for each review report
Duration: 18 months (workshop); review reports still to be planned
Activities: Workshop, proceedings, 2 triennial review reports

12. Regional workshops on sustainable harvesting (AP 4.1.1)[1]
Millions of birds are harvested as they migrate through the Agreement area each year. Some of these birds are internationally threatened species. In addition to direct takings, migratory waterbirds in particular are threatened by poisoning due to the pollution of their habitats from lead shot. In the countries of North Africa and the Middle East that border on the Mediterranean, especially in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt, hunting is an important socio-economic activity and a significant proportion of birds are shot or trapped there. A regional workshop should take place to promote more sustainable hunting practices and enhance compliance with international and regional agreements on the conservation of migratory birds as well as management of bird hunting to reduce excessive, indiscriminate and illegal hunting of migratory birds.

Indicative budget: € 30,000 per workshop
Duration: 2 years
Activities: Workshop, proceedings

[1] This is a new international implementation priority added by MOP3.

13. Evaluation of socio-economic impacts of waterbird hunting (AP 4.2.2)
Sport, market and subsistence hunting of waterbirds have the potential to contribute substantially to sustainable rural development throughout the Agreement area. Yet very little is known of the socio-economic impacts of such forms of hunting in different regions and its potential contribution to species and habitat conservation. This project will build on implementation priority number 10 above, and will research the socio-economic benefits of different types of waterbird hunting in different parts of the Agreement area (e.g. subsistence hunting in arctic/sub-arctic areas (including by indigenous populations), tourist or market hunting in Africa, and sport hunting in Europe). Significant work has been undertaken on this subject in North America, and should provide a useful background to the study. The results of the case studies will be presented to a workshop and published to advise future sustainable rural development initiatives.

Indicative budget: € 150,000
Duration: 2.5 years
Activities: Research, socio-economic surveys, workshop, publication

14. Evaluation of waterbirds as agricultural pests in Africa (AP 4.3.2, 4.3.3)
A number of migratory waterbird species covered by the Agreement are known to consume and potentially damage agricultural crops or commercial fish stocks (including those at fish-farms). Although the subject is relatively well studied in Europe, where geese, cormorants and herons are implicated, the situation in Africa is less well known. Here, populations of ducks and waders are reported as pests of rice and other crops. This project will work with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to review the extent, species involved and location of this problem. The project will involve a review of existing knowledge, and a workshop of experts, culminating in a review publication and recommendations on crop protection measures. The need to develop specific action plans for any of the species concerned will also be considered.

Indicative budget: € 100,000
Duration: 2 years
Activities: Review, workshop, publication

15. Guideline on minimizing/mitigating the impacts of infrastructural (and disturbance-related) developments affecting waterbirds (AP 4.3.5, 4.3.6)
Because many waterbirds occur in dense concentrations on individual sites, their conservation status can easily be threatened or impaired by point infrastructure developments (road or bridge-building, factories, oil terminals, tourist developments) or by the associated disturbance. This project will produce new conservation guidelines, recommending the steps to be taken to minimize or mitigate the impacts of such activities.

Indicative budget: € 25,000
Duration: 12 months
Activities: Review, consultation, guidelines

D. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

16. Survey work in poorly-known areas (AP 5.1)
There remain many gaps in knowledge of the importance and utilization of even some very large wetlands by migratory waterbirds, particularly in Africa and South-West Asia. Based on existing knowledge of gaps, and also the systematic gap analysis to be undertaken in implementation priority number 6 above, it is recommended that grants (and expertise, if necessary) be made available for locally organized surveys or expeditions, to assess the importance of lesser known areas. Such surveys, if conducted by visiting teams of experts, should involve a high component of training (and equipping) of local experts, and should result in a summary publication. These activities will be closely linked to those required for the next priority (17).

Indicative budget:	€ 15,000 per survey (average)
Duration:	Ongoing
Activities:	Field survey, training, publication.

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

17. International Waterbird Census – special gap-filling survey (AP 5.2, 5.3, 7.4)
The International Waterbird Census, organized by Wetlands International, and conducted in most countries within the Agreement area, is the primary tool for monitoring the conservation status of the populations covered by AEWA. It is based on annual non-breeding season surveys at a sample of sites, by an extensive network of mainly volunteer counters. As the census is conducted on a sample of sites only, it is necessary to try periodically to achieve a maximum coverage through a full census of as many sites as possible. This will enable better coverage of poorly known species and sites, better population estimates and calibration of population indices.
Wetlands International conducted a pilot project on prioritizing and costing the work for such a gap-filling census. The actual gap-filling has not yet been planned because it depends on the availability of (substantial) funds. This approach will currently only apply to the Western Palearctic and South-West Asia, since the census networks in Africa are insufficiently developed to enable the additional effort required for this extra survey work. Extended coverage in some countries may best be achieved through international field surveys as outlined under implementation priority number 16 above. The project will provide the additional coordination, support, small grants and awareness materials necessary to ensure a successful outcome.

Indicative budget:	€ 560,000 (including 6 regional workshops (€ 20,000 each), planning/coordination (€240,000), analysis/report writing (€200,000)) Plus 20-50 surveys, €10-15,000 each.
Duration:	5 years including planning and report writing
Activities:	Planning, regional workshops, coordination, field surveys, publication

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

18. Publication of flyway atlases for gulls, terns, herons, ibises, storks and rallidae (AP 5.4, 7.4)
A first flyway atlas has been produced for *Anatidae* (1996). The Wader Flyway Atlas is under development. These initiatives have been received with great enthusiasm. They provide the basis for the flyway approach to the conservation of these species. The *Anatidae* atlas needs a second edition. Similarly, the conservation of other species groups of migratory waterbirds would benefit from flyway atlases being produced for them. This can be done species group by species group, or in an integrated publication. Ideally the use of ringing recoveries should be integrated into these flyway population atlases.

Indicative budget:	Depending on the number of species in the species group, up to € 250,000 (excluding the integration of ringing recovery data) per species group atlas.
Duration:	3 years
Activities:	Coordination, review, data analysis, drafting and editing text, production of graphs, publication

19. Ringing recoveries in atlases (AP 5.4)
Ringing recoveries provide the physical evidence that an individual bird has travelled from one point to another. Since in many cases the flyway population to which an individual belongs is known, this contributes greatly to visualizing and understanding the concept and delimitation of flyway populations. Mapping ringing recoveries and providing background statistics with them, are a very valuable addition to census information presented in flyway atlases. Ideally therefore, the publication of these data should be combined. For gulls, terns, herons, ibises, storks and rallidae (the species mentioned in implementation priority 18) the integration of these data into one publication is still feasible. For *Anatidae* another solution will have to be found. Regarding waders, when finalizing the atlas it would be worthwhile attempting to integrate these data into the work that has already been done.

Indicative budget:	€ 100,000 (aiming at inclusion in flyway atlases (see priority 18), therefore excluding stand alone publication)
Duration:	18 months
Activities:	Coordination, data analysis, review, wide consultation, graphical presentation, text drafting, editing

20. Coordination of waterbird ringing schemes, particularly in Africa. (AP 5.4)
Ringing studies have contributed greatly to our current understanding of waterbird migration and ecology. Whereas in Europe the European Union for Bird Ringing has provided international coordination between the various national ringing schemes, no equivalent exists for Africa or South-west Asia. It is proposed to support the development of an African ringing scheme (AFRING), specifically for studies of migratory waterbirds. This will initially be through a coordinated study of intra-African migratory waterbirds. The project will have fixed goals and a five-year timetable.

Indicative budget:	€ 50,000 per annum
Duration:	Ongoing. One year's activities out of the five-year timetable were carried out in 2004
Activities:	Coordination, ringing programmes, review, publication

21. Guidelines on the use and best application of satellite tracking and other telemetric tracking for migratory waterbirds (AP 5.4)

The development of satellite tracking technology for studying animal migrations has advanced substantially in recent years, and has revolutionized our understanding of the migration ecology of some species. The technique has revealed that certain types of information can be gathered with substantially higher quality and cost-effectiveness than from traditional ringing schemes. However, the technique has only been successfully applied to larger species, and there remain important questions regarding animal welfare. The Scientific Council of CMS is coordinating work on this subject as a whole, but it is proposed to produce conservation guidelines specifically on the use of satellite tracking for migratory waterbirds. In addition, case studies showing the advantages and drawbacks of the technique should be listed, and an assessment of its value in studying globally threatened species should be made.

Satellite telemetry can be used to complement other methods of tracking bird populations so as to obtain information on use of sites along migratory routes by birds during migration. Having this strategic knowledge in hand – a listing of high priority species and/or populations with unknown or uncertain migratory routes, breeding, staging and/or wintering areas – could guide future implementation of telemetry studies towards answering questions of higher conservation importance. Compilation of a peer-reviewed overview and guidelines would be valuable.

Indicative budget:	€ 50,000
Duration:	1 year
Activities:	Desk study, consultation, guidelines on: a) best practice use of satellite tracking technology for studying waterbird migration; and b) a strategic overview of those species and flyways where this technology is likely to enhance existing knowledge of key sites and migration systems most effectively.

22. Actions for the conservation of colonial waterbirds (AP 3.1.2, 3.2, 4.2, 5)

A large proportion of the migratory waterbird species covered by the Agreement nest in colonies (particularly of the families: Pelecanidae, Phalacrocoracidae, Ardeidae, Ciconiidae, Threskiornithidae, Phoenicopteridae, Laridae). For different species, coloniality may be an adaptation for avoidance of predators and for efficient exploitation of food resources. One result of this behaviour is that a very significant proportion of the population of a species may be breeding at one or a few localities at one time. This makes the species particularly vulnerable to habitat change, taking (of eggs, young or adults), disturbance or emergency situations at such sites. On the positive side, waterbird colonies provide excellent opportunities for ecotourism, research and monitoring, and can be relatively easily protected.

In order to provide guidance to Contracting Parties, it is recommended that two activities be undertaken: i) (a) preparation of conservation guidelines on national actions to be undertaken for colonial waterbirds (establishment of a sites register, protection, monitoring, ecotourism and avoidance of disturbance, restoration and creation of breeding sites etc.); (b) a desk study to explore options, priorities and costings for coordinated international monitoring of colonial waterbirds during the breeding season, since many of these species are not adequately covered by the existing International Waterbird Census, which is based on non-breeding season surveys.

Indicative budget:	€ 15,000 (monitoring study)
Duration:	Ongoing, conservation guidelines have been contracted in 2005
Activities:	Review, analysis, consultation, publications

23. Causes of population changes in migratory waterbirds (AP 5.5)

In order to address effectively the conservation of migratory waterbirds, we need to know more about the major threats and mechanisms that drive changes in their population sizes. Many of the species action plans identify these, species by species. By compiling the information from sources such as these into a comprehensive overview of "causes of population change", it will become more feasible to address some of these causes horizontally, rather than on a species by species basis.

Indicative budget:	€ 30,000
Duration:	1 year
Activities:	Desk study, consultation, drafting text, publication

24. Migratory waterbirds and climatic change

Climate change will have major impacts on migratory waterbirds through impacts on habitats and migration systems. There is growing understanding of some of the issues that will need to be addressed in order to develop policies to adapt to these changes. Although the complexity of

waterbird migration systems makes it impossible to predict fully changes that might occur, research already indicates the likely main issues.
It is proposed that AEWA Conservation Guidelines be developed to synthesize best understanding of these issues, and the practical management responses that may be undertaken. It is likewise proposed that the Agreement's Action Plan should summarize the main issues to be addressed by Contracting Parties. To inform both these outputs, a desk study should summarize understanding of the current and future responses of migratory waterbirds to actual and predicted climatic change, and practical means of adaptation.
This work should build upon an initial review undertaken for the CMS Scientific Council in 2005 related to the effect of climate change on all migratory species.

Indicative budget:	€ 75,000
Duration:	1 year
Activities:	Desk study, consultation, publication (report and draft Conservation Guidelines for possible adoption at MoP4)

25. Compiling flyway information (in digital format) for use in conjunction with existing waterbird count data and site information (AP 5.4)
For Anatidae, an atlas has been produced compiling available flyway information. For waders this is under way, but needs further work. For other migratory waterbird species this still needs to be taken up. The information from such sources needs to be stored in databases (including GIS representation of flyway delimitations), for use in conjunction with census and site information. This will involve expert use of the databases and consultation of expert groups (specialist groups). This should also result in project proposals for further research to fill gaps in existing knowledge.

Indicative budget:	€ 125,000
Duration:	2 years
Activities:	Database analysis, information compilation, desk study, review, expert consultation, and coordination

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

26. The use of wetland sites by migratory waterbirds (AP 5.6)
Throughout their annual cycle, migratory waterbirds depend on a variety of wetland sites. Given the concentration of so many individual waterbirds in these sites, they are of vital importance for their survival. We therefore look at these places as a network of critical sites. But can the role of any of these sites be taken over by another site if something goes wrong? And what if such a change happens in the far north of the "network", how will this affect the role of the sites further along the migratory route? In order to be able to assess this, we need to gather more knowledge about the way birds use these sites, in relation to environmental parameters, and about the flexibility in site use by individual birds. What are the basic ecological requirements of the migratory waterbird species with respect to these sites. This may again differ between the different life-cycle stages (e.g., breeding, moulting, migration, wintering, displaying). The understanding of the importance of sites for the survival and conservation of species should be strongly improved by a study into these factors. There is a strong link to priority 8.

Indicative budget:	€ 30,000
Duration:	1 year
Activities:	Desk study, consultation, publication

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

27. Migratory waterbirds as indicators

Migratory waterbirds react to parameters in and around wetland sites in a way that opens the possibility to use them as indicators of the status of these wetlands and the pressures on them. This is highly relevant to policy makers. By constructing powerful indicators, decisions about measures to be taken (affecting nature conservation) can be facilitated. Currently many of the causal links between numbers of migratory waterbirds and wetland parameters are insufficiently known, and the state of knowledge needs to be improved.

Indicative budget: € 30,000
Duration: 1 year
Activities: Desk study, consultation, publication

E. EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

28. Analysis of training needs for migratory waterbird conservation (AP 6.1, 6.2)

The levels of know-how in practical techniques for migratory waterbird conservation vary substantially throughout the Agreement area. Sharing such expertise through training materials and programmes is an important aspect of international cooperation for the implementation of the Agreement. Using a questionnaire approach, it is proposed to develop an analysis of training needs by subregion, and also to compile information on appropriate international training institutions and existing materials. The project should focus on subregions outside North-West Europe, where training opportunities are already adequate.

Indicative budget: € 30,000 (approximately 50 per cent already available)
Duration: 1 year
Activities: Questionnaire, review, consultation, publication

Study done in GEF preparation and development facility (category B) Flyways project. Further analysis, development of sub-regional programmes and their implementation in the full GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

29. Improving survey and monitoring capacity for migratory waterbirds (AP 6.2)

Enhancing survey and monitoring capacity for migratory waterbirds and the sites they use through training and by providing equipment. Analysis of the geographic coverage and the quality of the network for data gathering on waterbirds and the sites they use will show that sub-regions within the AEWA region can be identified where capacity is lacking or limiting the data quality. Depending on the need of the specific sub-region, capacity-building and field survey work will be performed to enhance the quality of the data. Twinning is a potential implementation mechanism whereby countries with higher capacity adopt countries with less well-developed schemes. In addition, in areas where the economic conditions prevent observers buying their own essential optical equipment, technical resources to support the network of volunteers will be provided.

Indicative budget: Based on implementation by experts from the region per country: € 32,500 in the first year, € 20,000 in the second year
Duration: 5 years in total, 2-3 years per country, depending on the needs
Activities: Fieldwork, training, supply of equipment (first year)

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

30. Regional training programmes in Africa for implementation of the Agreement (AP 6.1, 6.2)
In numerous forums training has been identified as one of the key elements for advancing the implementation of the Agreement, particularly in Africa. Access to modern planning, assessment and management techniques relevant to local situations will greatly help under-resourced agencies use their resources most effectively. The regional training programmes in West Africa, currently organized by Wetlands International and the Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (France) provide a useful model from which new programmes can be developed. It is strongly recommended that this type of training programme be extended throughout Africa. Cost-effectiveness will be greatest if courses are based on groups of neighbouring countries, and if local expertise can be used for the majority of the training. Courses should target specific groups of professionals and include the following subjects, as appropriate: a general introduction to the work of the Agreement; waterbird identification, assessment and monitoring; waterbird ecology; habitat management for waterbirds; managing human activities; and public awareness.

Indicative budget:	€ 150,000 per year, per regional programme
Duration:	5 years
Activities:	Coordination, training courses, materials, follow-up

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

31. Field guide for Central Asia and adjacent countries (AP 6.1, 6.2)
In order to build sustainable monitoring capacity, the availability of a good field identification guide is essential. For Central Asia and adjacent areas like Siberia and other Range States of the Central Asian-South Asian Flyway such a guide, in the appropriate language (Russian) and targeted at the relevant species is not currently available. The knowledge, the capacity and even the artwork exist to make such a guide, and a guide can be realized in a relatively short time span, if financial resources become available for editing and publishing.

Indicative budget:	€ 50,000
Duration:	1 year
Activities:	Text drafting, publication (in Russian)

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005

32. Training course on migratory waterfowl conservation and waterfowl habitat management (AP 6.1)[3]
It is proposed to organize two-week training courses for 10-15 representatives of institutions and organisations of certain regions (e.g. CIS countries).
The general goals of the course are to provide participants with knowledge and skills necessary for the organisation and implementation of measures for migratory waterfowl conservation in breeding and resting areas, waterfowl habitat management, waterfowl and habitat sustainable use (hunting, ecotourism), as well as to identify and develop common approaches for conservation and restoration of shared waterfowl habitats, to identify and develop common approaches for taking management actions on waterfowl on common migratory routes, and to identify and develop common information materials and mechanisms for public awareness with regard to migratory waterfowl conservation and waterfowl habitat protection.

[3] This is a new international implementation priority added by MOP3.

The course will work with regional groups, because training needs and social and cultural background are most likely to be similar within these groups. For example, the CIS are different in size and population, but have a similar legacy in the wake of the collapse of the USSR: economies in transition and lack of funds for nature conservation.
The course is expected to contribute to an increase among participants in knowledge necessary for the conservation of migratory waterfowl and management of their habitats, establishment of closer cooperation among the different experts of different countries and institutions, and the strengthening of regional cooperation.

Indicative budget:	€ 28,000 per group (average)
Duration:	1 year
Activities:	Training course

33. Publication of waterbird monitoring manuals (AP 6.2)
Effective monitoring of migratory waterbirds is essential for the functioning of the Agreement, and it is vital that comparable data are collected between sites, regions and years. The production of manuals to help train coordinators and counters will be an important tool for continuous improvement of the monitoring networks. The manuals will be particularly valuable for the relatively new counting networks in Africa and South-West Asia, but will also benefit European counters. It will be necessary to publish the manual(s) in a number of languages. Furthermore, it may be necessary to have versions appropriate to the situation in different parts of the Agreement area. Aerial survey methods for remote, inaccessible and offshore areas throughout the Agreement area should not be neglected. Preliminary proposals are for one manual for the Western Palearctic and South-West Asia, and one for Africa.

Indicative budget:	€ 40,000 per manual in one language
	€ 20,000 for translation/printing/mailing other languages
Duration:	18 months
Activities:	Drafting, consultation, publication, free distribution

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

34. Establish a clearing house for training materials for the Agreement (AP 6. 2)
A wealth of training materials relevant to the implementation of the Agreement already exists both within the Agreement area, and also in other parts of the world. The establishment of an internet-based clearing house for such training materials will greatly assist Parties in meeting the obligations of the Agreement. It is suggested that the Agreement Secretariat should establish a contract with an appropriate international organization to establish and maintain this clearinghouse.

Indicative budget:	€ 30,000 to establish clearinghouse
	€ 10,000 per annum for maintenance
Duration:	5 years
Activities:	Collection of materials, web site development, dissemination

35. Regional workshops for the promotion of the Agreement (AP 6.3)
In order to give the development of the Agreement a strong start throughout the Agreement area, a number of promotional workshops should be arranged for specific subregions. The priority regions identified so far would be, in order: (i) the Central Asian Republics; (ii) the Arab states. These workshops should aim to gather appropriate decision makers, research biologists, conservation professionals and donors, in order to raise awareness of the Agreement, promote membership, debate regional priorities, stimulate international cooperation and develop project initiatives. Where possible, the workshops should be linked with those of other relevant CMS or partner-Convention/organization activities, so as to increase synergy and maximize cost-effectiveness.

Indicative budget:	€ 50,000 per regional workshop
Duration:	1 per year
Activities:	Regional workshop and follow-up

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

36. Communicating the importance of a network of critical sites for migratory waterbirds (AP 6.3)
The network of critical sites that will be developed as an interactive and dynamic tool via a web portal, will gain enormously in power and practical applicability if it is published as a convincing booklet. It will serve a wider audience than the web portal, such as policy makers, who are unlikely to have the time to access the information on the web, and people in areas where internet access is underdeveloped. Having a booklet to browse through will be an effective means of communicating the network of critical sites. In addition, awareness-raising is needed, using the network of critical site information to make brochures, posters, flyers and to undertake other public relations activities, including organization of a session at the Global Flyway Conference in 2004.

Indicative budget:	€ 100,000
Duration:	1 year
Activities:	Editing, layout, printing, publishing, distribution, coordination, public relations activities

Being proposed for matching funding as an activity in the full project proposal of the GEF AEWA/Ramsar flyways project to be launched in 2005.

RESOLUTION 3.12

ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLANS

Recalling that paragraph 2.2.1 of the Action Plan of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds states that the Parties shall cooperate with a view to developing and implementing international single species action plans,

Following the recommendations of the Technical Committee, approved at its 6th meeting in May 2005, and of the Standing Committee of the Agreement, approved at its 3rd meeting in July 2005.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the International Single Species Action Plans for the following species/subspecies:

   a) Light-bellied Brent Goose, East Canadian High Arctic population *Branta bernicla hrota* (AEWA/MOP 3.19)
   b) Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita* (AEWA/MOP 3.20)
   c) Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (AEWA/MOP 3.21)
   d) White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* (AEWA/MOP 3.22)
   e) Corncrake *Crex crex* (AEWA/MOP 3.23)

2. *Strongly urges* the national implementation of these and previously adopted Single Species Action Plans by Contracting Parties pursuant to paragraph 2.2.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan;

3. *Encourages* Range States that are not yet Contracting Parties to the Agreement to also implement these and previously adopted Single Species Action Plans;

4. *Instructs* the Standing Committee, after receiving positive recommendations from the Technical Committee, to approve on an interim basis the International Single Species Action Plans that are currently being drafted for the following species:

   a) Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*
   b) Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa*

5. *Further instructs* the Standing Committee, after receiving positive recommendations from the Technical Committee, to consider approving intersessionally between Meetings of the Parties on an interim basis any International Single Species Action Plan that may emerge;

6. *Instructs in addition* the Secretariat to establish mechanisms, resources permitting, to co-ordinate the international implementation of existing and future Single Species Action Plans pursuant to paragraph 2.2.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan and to report progress to this end to MOP4.

RESOLUTION 3.13

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Pursuant to article VII of the Agreement, the first session of the Meeting of the Parties, through Resolution 1.8, established and determined the composition of the Technical Committee,

Recalling that through Resolution 1.8 the Meeting of the Parties also approved the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Technical Committee, which include amongst other issues the terms of office of the Members of the Technical Committee,

Further recalling that the second session of the Meeting of the Parties amended the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Technical Committee, *inter alia,* Rule 7 regarding replacement of Members that have to step down owing to their terms of office expiring,

Noting that pursuant to the above Resolution, 8 Members of the Technical Committee[1] are obliged to step down at the end of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties,

Expressing concern that a turnover of over half of the Technical Committee Members will impede the ongoing work of the Technical Committee,

Considering the recommendation of the Technical Committee from its 6th Meeting regarding extension of the terms of office of its Members, and the role of the Technical Committee,

Bearing in mind that in accordance with Article VII paragraph 2 of the Agreement the Technical Committee shall:

(a) provide scientific and technical advice and information to the Meeting of the Parties and, through the Agreement Secretariat, to Parties,

(b) make recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties concerning the Action Plan, implementation of the Agreement and further research to be carried out,

(c) prepare for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties a report on its activities which shall be submitted to the Agreement Secretariat not less than one hundred and twenty days before the session of the Meeting of the Parties, copies being circulated forthwith by the Agreement Secretariat to the Parties,

Further bearing in mind that pursuant to Article VII paragraph 2d the Technical Committee shall carry out any other tasks referred to it by the Meeting of the Parties,

Acknowledging with appreciation the recommendation of the 5th Meeting of the Technical Committee that the Committee should take a leading role in the implementation of the Agreement,

Further acknowledging the Technical Committee's recommendation to develop AEWA as a major player amongst biodiversity-related Conventions regarding migratory Waterbirds in the African-Eurasian region,

Appreciating the work of the Technical Committee in fulfilling its task as stipulated by Article VII paragraph 2 of the Agreement, and its contribution to the implementation of the Agreement.

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[1] six Regional Representatives, the Expert on Rural Economics and the Expert on Environmental Law

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Appoints* to the Technical Committee, taking into account terms of office in accordance with Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedures for meetings of the Technical Committee and the geographical representation as laid down in the Appendix, the members and alternates named in Appendix I to the present Resolution;

2. *Approves* the extension of the term of office until the end of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties of the following Technical Committee Members:

Region	**Representative**
Central Africa	Mr Ikonga Jerome Mokoko (Congo-Brazzaville)

Experts	
Rural Economics	Mr Elijah Danso (Ghana)
Environmental Law	Ms Rachel Adam (Israel)

3. *Adopts* the revised rules of procedure for the meetings of the Technical Committee, as attached hereto in Appendix II:

4. *Further decides* that each regional Representative shall:

a) serve as the Technical Committee's contact point for the Range States and, in particular, Contracting Parties of that geographical region, and as such maintain contact with the Contracting Parties' technical focal points in order to synchronize regional activities for the implementation of AEWA;

b) prepare, submit and present to the Technical Committee at each of its meetings a report on the implementation of AEWA in that geographical region represented by him/her;

c) provide information on activities undertaken by the Range States, Contracting Parties and others in the region on implementation of AEWA;

d) disseminate to the Contracting Parties' technical focal points information on the outcomes of discussions at the meetings of the Technical Committee.

5. *Instructs* the Secretariat to provide the necessary support to the Technical Committee in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement, as well as the provisions in the budget for the Agreement and the activities of the Technical Committee or the Agreement Secretariat, as adopted under Resolution 3.14;

6. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to include members of the Technical Committee in their delegations to the Meeting of the Parties, finances permitting, in order to enhance synergies between the bodies of the Agreement.

Appendix I

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES

REPRESENTATIVE	ALTERNATE
NORTH AND SOUTHWESTERN EUROPE	
Dr. Olivier Biber (Switzerland)	Petri Nummi (Finland)
CENTRAL EUROPE	
Vacant	Vacant
EASTERN EUROPE	
Vacant	Vacant
SOUTHWESTERN ASIA	
Dr. Elena Kreuzberg (Uzbekistan)	Vacant
NORTHERN AFRICA	
Mr. Abdulmuala A. Hamza (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)	Vacant
WESTERN AFRICA	
Mr. Alfousseini Séméga (Mali)	Mr. John H. Mshelbwala (Nigeria)
CENTRAL AFRICA	
Mr. Ikonga Jerome Mokoko (Congo)	Mr. Mahamat Hassane Idriss (Chad)
EASTERN AFRICA	
Mr. Olivier Nasirwa (Kenya)	Mr. Archilles Byaruhanga (Uganda)
SOUTHERN AFRICA	
Mr. Yousoof Mungroo (Mauritius)	Prof. Les Underhil (South Africa)
REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANISATIONS (3)[2]	
IUCN	
Mr. Jean-Christophe Vié	Vacant
WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL	
Mr. Ward Hagemeijer	Mr. Simon Delany
CIC	
Mr. Niels Kranstrup	Prof. Dr. Heribert Kalchreuter

EXPERTS

RURAL ECONOMICS
Mr. Elijah Danso (Ghana)

ENVIROMENTAL LAW
Ms. Rachelle Adam (Israel)

GAME MANAGEMENT
Dr. Preben Clausen (Denmark)

[2] Term of office to be decided by the Organisation

Appendix II

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)

General functions

Rule 1

The Technical Committee, established in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement provides scientific and technical advice and information, to the Meeting of the Parties and, through the Agreement Secretariat, to the Parties. Its functions are defined in Article VII paragraph 3. The Technical Committee works closely with the Standing Committee to ensure consistency across the Agreement's work.

Rule 2

In particular the Technical Committee makes recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties concerning the Action Plan, implementation of the Agreement and further research to be carried out.

Representation and attendance

Rule 3

1. In accordance with Article VII paragraph 1, the Committee membership shall comprise:

(a) nine experts representing the different regions of the Agreement Area (north & south west Europe, central Europe, eastern Europe, south-western Asia, north Africa, central Africa, west Africa, East Africa and southern Africa) elected among all the Parties on the recommendation of the Parties of the region in question;

(b) one representative appointed by each of the following organisations: the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Wetlands International, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC); and

(c) one expert from each of the following fields: rural economics, game management, and environmental law; elected by the Parties.

2. Any Party has the right to recommend an expert in the fields of rural economics, game management and environmental law for nomination by the Meeting of the Parties.

3. With the exception of the experts in the field of rural economics, game management and environmental law, all the above-mentioned representatives shall name an Alternate Member for each position to be approved by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 4

Except as provided for in Rule 7, attendance at meetings of the Technical Committee shall be limited to members of the Technical Committee or their Alternates and observers of the Parties.

Rule 5

Only Members shall exercise the voting rights. In his/her absence, the Alternate shall act in his or her place.

Rule 6

1. The term of office of the members shall expire at the close of the second ordinary Meeting following that at which they were elected, unless extended by agreement of the Meeting of the Parties. At each ordinary meeting of the Meeting of the Parties, elections shall be held only for those regional members whose term of office will have expired at the close of the meeting and for any regional member who indicates a desire to step down without completing a full term of office. The same provisions shall apply with respect to the alternate/ members nominated in accordance with Rule 3.

2. In the instance of a Member and his/her Alternate standing down simultaneously without completing a full term of office, the Chair of the Technical Committee, in close cooperation with the region/organisation involved and in consultation with the Agreement Secretariat, is permitted to nominate an expert of the region or organisation involved to replace the Member and Alternate intersessionally with full voting rights. The term of office of the replacement member/alternate shall expire at the close of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties with the possibility that the Meeting appoints him/ her as a representative or Alternate.

Rule 7

1. The Chairperson may invite observers of non-contracting Parties and the Chair of the AEWA Standing Committee.

2. Furthermore he may invite or admit a maximum of four observers from specialized international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

3. In addition, at each meeting of the Technical Committee, the Chairperson may invite guests to contribute to specific agenda items.

Officers

Rule 8

The members of the Committee shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from their regional representatives of the Parties, for terms corresponding to those of the Meetings of the Parties. This election will normally take place immediately before the Meeting of the Parties, and the newly elected officers shall assume their functions at the conclusion of the same Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 9

The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Committee, approve the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat for circulation, and liaise with the members between meetings of the Committee. The Chairperson may represent the Committee as required within the limits of the Committee mandate, and shall carry out such other functions as may be entrusted to him/her by the Committee.

Rule 10

The Vice-Chairperson shall assist in the execution of the Chairperson's duties, and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

Rule 11

The Agreement Secretariat shall serve the meetings of the Committee.

Elections

Rule 12

If in an election to fill one place no candidate obtains an overall majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If the votes are equally divided in the second ballot, the presiding officer shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

Rule 13

If in the first ballot there is a tie amongst candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two.

Rule 14

In the case of a tie amongst three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the first ballot, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two. If a tie then results amongst two or more candidates, the presiding officer shall reduce the number to two by drawing lots, and a further ballot shall be held in accordance with Rule 12.

Meetings

Rule 15

Meetings of the Committee shall be convened by the Agreement Secretariat in conjunction with each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties and at least once between ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 16

Where in the opinion of the Committee an emergency has arisen that requires the adoption of immediate measures to avoid deterioration of the conservation status of one or more migratory waterbird species, the Chairperson may request the Agreement Secretariat to urgently convene a meeting of the Parties concerned.

Rule 17

Notice of meetings, including date and venue, shall be sent to all Parties by the Secretariat at least 45 days in advance and, in the case of extraordinary meetings, at least 14 days in advance.

Rule 18

A quorum for a meeting shall consist of half of the members of the Committee. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.

Rule 19

Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus unless a vote is requested by the Chairperson or by three members.

Rule 20

Decisions of the Committee by voting (pursuant to Rule 19) shall be passed by a simple majority vote of the members present and voting. In the case of a tie, the motion shall be considered rejected.

Rule 21

A summary record of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat as soon as possible and shall be communicated to all members of the Technical Committee.

Working groups

Rule 22

The Committee may establish such ad hoc working groups as may be necessary to deal with specific tasks. It shall define the terms of reference and composition of each working group.

Rule 23

In so far as they are applicable, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of working groups.

Rule 24

The Committee shall receive reports from other committees and working groups established under the Agreement as necessary.

Communication procedure

Rule 25

Any member of the Technical Committee, or the Secretariat, may submit a proposal to the Chairperson of the Technical Committee for a decision by correspondence. Upon request by the Chairperson, the Secretariat shall communicate the proposal to the members for comments within 60 days of the date of communication. Any comments received within these limits shall also be thus communicated.

Rule 26

If, by the date on which comments on a proposal were due to be communicated, the Secretariat has not received any objection from a member, the proposal shall be adopted, and notice of the adoption shall be given to all members.

Rule 27

If any member objects to a proposal within the applicable time limit, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Rule 28

The Secretariat shall inform the Contracting Parties on the date and venue of the next Meeting of the Technical Committee. For each Meeting of the Technical Committee the Contracting Parties will receive at least the provisional agenda and draft minutes of the previous meeting. All other documents to be discussed will be made available through the Agreement's website.

Rule 29

The regional representative shall act as a co-ordinator for range States and Contracting Parties in their region, submit a report to the Committee on AEWA Implementation in their region and disseminate to the technical focal points of Contracting Parties the outcomes of Committee meetings.

Other functions

Rule 30

The Chairperson shall submit a written report on the Committee's work since the previous ordinary meeting to each ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

Final provisions

Rule 31

These Rules shall be applied at the first meeting of the Committee following their approval by the Meeting of the Parties, and may be amended by the Committee as required, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and decisions.

RESOLUTION 3.14

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Recalling Article V, Paragraph 2 (a) and (b), of the Agreement, which states that Parties shall contribute to the budget of the Agreement in accordance to the United Nations scale of assessment,

Acknowledging with appreciation the financial and other support provided by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for hosting the Agreement Secretariat, which is co-located with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in Bonn,

Furthermore acknowledging with appreciation the Junior Professional Officer Information provided by the Government of Germany as of 1 October 2005 to strengthen the capacity of the Agreement Secretariat,

Recognizing the importance of all Parties being able to participate in the implementation of the Agreement and related activities,

Appreciating the additional support given by various Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on a voluntary basis to implement the Agreement,

Furthermore appreciating the support of the Global Environment Facility for the development and implementation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Flyways project,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat of the Agreement to enable it better to serve all Parties in the Agreement area,

Further recognising the need to undertake a thorough review of the budget at the fourth meeting of the Parties, on the basis of a number of different scenarios, in order to enhance clarity and predictability,

Aware that many Parties, particularly developing countries or countries with economies in transition, may not have the financial means to send representatives to meetings of bodies established under the Agreement,

Noting the considerable number of Contracting and non-Contracting Parties as well as organizations attending the third session of the Meeting of the Parties, and the resulting additional expenditures to Parties so incurred.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Confirms* that Parties shall contribute to the budget adopted at the scale agreed upon by the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with Article V, Paragraph 2 (a) and (b), of the Agreement;

2. *Adopts* the budget for 2006-2008 attached as Appendix I to the present Resolution;

3. *Agrees* to the scale of contributions for Parties to the Agreement as listed in Appendix II to the present Resolution, and to the application of that scale pro rata to new Parties;

4. *Agrees* that the minimum contribution shall be not less than 100 Euros per annum and that exceptionally for the period 2006-2008 the maximum contribution shall be restricted to 20 percent of the total budget;

5. *Instructs* the Secretariat, using the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations; the staff regulations and rules of the United Nations and other administrative policies or procedures; promulgated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to develop a series of budget scenarios for further consideration by Parties at the fourth Meeting of Parties in 2008; and that these scenarios should reflect budget increases of 0%, 5%, 10% and 15% respectively;

6. *Requests* Parties, in particular those that are required to pay the minimum contribution, to consider paying for the whole triennium in one installment;

7. *Further requests* Parties to pay their contributions promptly as far as possible but in any case not later than the end of June of the year to which they relate;

8. *Agrees* to set the threshold of eligibility for funding of delegates to attend AEWA meetings at 0.200 on the UN Scale of Assessment and, as a general rule, to exclude countries from the European Union and European countries with strong economies, as listed in Appendix IV attached hereto;

9. *Takes note* of Resolution 3.11 of the Meeting of the Parties on the international implementation priorities for the period 2006-2008 and its related appendices;

10. *Urges* all Parties to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund to support requests from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate in and implement the Agreement throughout the triennium;

11. *Further urges* Contracting Parties and other partners to provide additional contributions to secure urgent implementation of the Agreement, in particular implementation of the GEF project, implementation of the Agreement, implementation of the Communication Strategy.

12. *Requests* the Standing Committee, taking into account advice from the Technical Committee, and in consultation with the Executive Secretary, to review, if necessary, the priorities set out in paragraph 11 above, except for the GEF project, which remains the top priority, should an unanticipated situation arise or a funding deficit materialise;

13. *Invites* States not Party to the Agreement, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources to consider contributing to the implementation of the Agreement on a voluntary basis;

14. *Approves* the establishment of the following posts, in accordance with classification of the posts by the United Nations:

G-4 (part-time): Information Assistant (as of 1 July 2006)
G-4 (part-time): Secretary/Assistant (as of 1 July 2006)
P-2: Associate Information Officer (as of 1 October 2008)

15. *Invites* Contracting Parties as well as the United Nations Environment Programme to consider the feasibility of providing gratis personnel and/or junior professional officers, in accordance with the United Nations rules and regulations, to strengthen the capacity of the Agreement Secretariat;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend the duration of the Trust Fund to 31 December 2008;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish two new Trust Funds with effect from 1 January 2006;

18. *Approves* the terms of reference for the administration of the Agreement budget as set out in Appendix III to the present Resolution for the period 2006-2008.

Appendix I

Budget estimates 2006-2008

Budget line				
CORE BUDGET				
	2006	**2007**	**2008**	**TOTAL**
General Management	EURO	EURO	EURO	EURO
1101 Executive Secretary (P4)	139,654	141,414	143,174	424,242
1102 Associate Technical Officer (P2)	94,245	95,205	96,165	285,615
1103 Junior Professional Officer (Information) *1				
1104 Associate Information Officer (P2)			17,000	17,000
1301 Administrative Assistant (G5)	50,764	51,884	53,004	155,652
1303 Secretary/ Assistant (G4)	21,460	44,040	45,160	110,660
1106 Services provided by the Admin Unit (1 P3, 1 G6 + 3 G5)				
1201 Translators	5,600	5,600	7,860	19,060
1601 Official Travel AEWA Staff	28,000	28,000	40,000	96,000
3201 Training of Staff	2,400	2,400	2,400	7,200
4101 Miscellaneous office supplies	2,400	2,400	2,400	7,200
4201 Office equipment	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
4301 Rent and maintenance costs* 2				
5101 Operation/maintenance of computers	1,200	1,200	1,200	3,600
5102 Operation/maintenance of photocopiers	1,200	1,200	1,200	3,600
5103 Operation/maintenance -others	800	800	800	2,400
5201 Document production (external)	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
5203 Reference material	400	400	400	1,200
5301 Telephone, Fax	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
5302 Postage and miscellaneous	5,200	5,200	7,200	17,600
5303 Bank charges	1,200	1,200	1,200	3,600
5400 Hospitality	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Total General Management	**364,523**	**390,943**	**429,163**	**1,184,629**
Servicing the Meeting of the Parties				
1201 English Translators			6,800	6,800
1202 French Translators			12,000	12,000
1204 Report Writers			16,000	16,000
1205 Interpreters			40,000	40,000
1220 Consultancies for MOP (7 reviews)	40,000	40,000	32,000	112,000
1602 Travel of Staff to the MOP			16,000	16,000
2201 Organization of MOP			100,000	100,000
5201 Document production (external)			6,000	6,000
Total servicing the Meeting of the Parties	**40,000**	**40,000**	**228,800**	**308,800**

Budget line				
Servicing the Technical Committee				
1201 English Translators	2,400		2,400	4,800
1202 French Translators	3,200		3,200	6,400
1204 Report Writers				
1205 Interpreters	10,000		10,000	20,000
Total servicing the Technical Committee	**15,600**		**15,600**	**31,200**
Servicing the Standing Committee				
1201 English Translators	2,400	2,400	2,400	7,200
1202 French Translators	3,200	3,200	3,200	9,600
1204 Report Writers				
1205 Interpreters				
Total servicing the Standing Committee	**5,600**	**5,600**	**5,600**	**16,800**
SUBTOTAL	425,723	436,543	679,163	1,541,429
6000 UNEP overhead costs 13 %	55,344	56,750	88,291	200,385
GRAND TOTAL	**481,067**	**493,293**	**767,454**	**1,741,814**
* 1 JPO provided free of charge by the Government of Germany.				
* 2 Provided for free by the Government of Germany.				

Budget line				
ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND NEW PARTIES				
Implementation of the African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project				
2202 Projects (support to implementation of GEF project)	40,000	40,000	40,000	120,000
5202 Information material (special brochures/ leaflets AEWA GEF)	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
Total implementation of the African-Eurasian GEF project	**44,000**	**44,000**	**44,000**	**132,000**
Development of Strategic Plan for the Agreement				
1225 Development of a Strategic Plan for AEWA	20,000			20,000
Total development of a Strategic Plan for the Agreement	**20,000**			**20,000**
Implementation of the Agreement				
1223 Consultancies regarding research/ surveys.	12,000	12,000	12,000	36,000
2203 Development of International Species Action Plans	12,000	12,000	12,000	36,000
3303 Regional Meetings	12,000	12,000	12,000	36,000
Total implementation of the Agreement	**36,000**	**36,000**	**36,000**	**108,000**
Implementation of the Communication Strategy				
1226 Result 1: Internal Communication Materials	5,490	5,490	7,740	18,720
1227 Result 2: External Communication	60,700	63,100	33,750	157,550
1228 Result 3: Capacity Building	68,700	63,300	31,650	163,650
1229 Result 4: Awareness raising	43,380	35,690	38,505	117,575
Total implementation of the Communication Strategy	**178,270**	**167,580**	**111,645**	**457,495**
Implementation of the International Implementation Priorities 2006-2008				
1230 Species Conservation	140,000	140,000	140,000	420,000
1231 Habitat Conservation	486,791	344,792	423,542	1,255,125
1232 Management of Human Activities	321,666	196,667	146,667	665,000
1233 Research and monitoring	500,583	300,583	219,334	1,020,500
1234 Education and information	289,250	135,000	110,000	534,250
Total implementation of the International Implementation Priorities	**1,738,290**	**1,117,042**	**1,039,543**	**3,894,875**
Subtotal of Activities to be Funded by Contributions of New Parties	2,016,560	1,364,622	1,231,188	4,612,370
6000 UNEP overhead costs 13 %	262,153	177,401	160,054	599,608
GRAND TOTAL	**2,278,713**	**1,542,023**	**1,391,242**	**5,211,978**

TRAVEL COSTS OF FUNDED DELEGATES TO AEWA MEETINGS				
3302 Meeting of the Technical Committtee	24,000		24,000	48,000
1601 Meetings of the Standing Committee (6 part x 2 days)	16,000	16,000	16,000	48,000
Subtotal Travel costs of funded delegates to AEWA meetings	40,000	16,000	40,000	96,000
6000 UNEP overhead costs 13 %	5,200	2,000	5,200	12,480
GRAND TOTAL	**45,200**	**18,000**	**45,200**	**108,480**

Appendix II

AEWA Contributions for the year 2006-2008

Party	UN Scale (%)	2006	2007	2008
Albania	0.0050	163	104	152
Benin	0.0020	100	100	100
Bulgaria	0.0170	555	352	518
Congo	0.0010	100	100	100
Croatia	0.0370	1,207	767	1,128
Denmark	0.7180	23,420	14,879	21,882
Djibouti	0.0010	100	100	100
Egypt	0.1200	3,914	2,487	3,657
Equatorial Guinea	0.0010	100	100	100
European Community	2.5000	12,027	12,332	19,186
Finland	0.5330	17,386	11,045	16,244
France	6.0300	96,213	98,659	153,491
Gambia	0.0010	100	100	100
Ghana	0.0040	100	100	100
Georgia	0.0030	100	100	100
Germany	8.6620	96,213	98,659	153,491
Guinea	0.0030	100	100	100
Hungary	0.1260	2,216	2,611	3,840
Ireland	0.3500	6,156	7,253	10,666
Israel	0.4670	15,233	9,677	14,232
Jordan	0.0110	359	228	335
Kenya	0.0090	294	187	274
Latvia	0.0150	264	271	673
Lebanon	0.0240	783	497	731
Libya	0.1320	2,322	2,381	3,704
Lithuania	0.0240	422	433	731
Luxembourg	0.0770	1,354	1,596	2,347
Mali	0.0020	100	100	100
Mauritius	0.0110	359	228	335
Monaco	0.0030	100	100	100
Moldova	0.0010	100	100	100
Netherlands	1.6900	55,125	35,021	51,504
Niger	0.0010	100	100	100
Nigeria	0.0420	739	758	1,280
Portugal	0.4700	8,267	8,477	14,324
Romania	0.0600	1,957	1,243	1,829
Senegal	0.0050	163	104	152
Slovakia	0.0510	1,664	1,057	1,554
Slovenia	0.0820	1,442	1,699	2,499
South Africa	0.2920	9,525	6,051	8,899
Spain	2.5200	82,198	52,220	76,799
Sudan	0.0080	261	166	244
Sweden	0.9980	32,553	20,681	30,415
Switzerland	1.1970	39,044	24,805	36,479
Syria	0.0380	668	787	1,158
FYR Macedonia	0.0060	196	124	183
Togo	0.0010	100	100	100
Tunisia	0.0320	563	577	898

Uganda	0.0060	**196**	**124**	**183**
Ukraine	0.0390	**1,272**	**808**	**1,189**
United Kingdom	6.1270	**96,213**	**98,659**	**153,491**
United Republic of Tanzania	0.0060	**196**	**124**	**183**
Uzbekistan	0.0140	**246**	**253**	**427**

Appendix III

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST FUND FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

1. The terms of reference for the Trust Fund of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) shall refer to the financial years beginning 1 January 2006 and ending 31 December 2008.

2. The Trust Fund shall be administered by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) subject to the approval of the Governing Council of UNEP and the consent of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The administration of the Trust Fund shall be governed by the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations, the staff regulations and rules of the United Nations and other administrative policies or procedures, promulgated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

4. In accordance with United Nations rules, UNEP shall deduct from the income an administrative charge equal to 13 per cent of the expenditure charged to the AEWA Trust Fund in respect of activities financed under AEWA.

5. The financial resources of the Trust Fund for 2006-2008 shall be derived from:

   (a) Contributions made by Parties by reference to appendix II of Resolution 3.14, including contributions from any new Party; and

   (b) Further contributions from Parties and contributions from States not Parties to the Agreement, other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources.

6. All contributions to the Trust Fund shall be paid in fully convertible Euros. For contributions from States that become Parties after the beginning of the financial period, the initial contribution (from the first day of the third month after deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession until the end of the financial period) shall be determined *pro rata* based on the contribution of other States Parties on the same level of the United Nations scale of assessments, as it applies from time to time. However, if the contribution of a new Party determined on this basis would be more than 20 per cent of the budget, the contribution of that Party shall be 20 per cent of the budget for the financial year of joining (or pro rata for a part year). The contribution of each Party as laid down in appendix II of Resolution 3.14 shall be fixed until the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties. Contributions of new Parties shall flow into the Trust Fund of the Agreement. Contributions shall be paid in annual instalments. The contributions shall be due on 1 January 2006, 2007 and 2008. Contributions shall be paid into the following account:

   UNEP Euro Account
   Account No. 6161603755
   J.P. Morgan AG
   Gruneburgweg 2
   60322 Frankfurt / Main
   Germany
   Bank code number 501 108 00
   SWIFT No. CHASDEFX
   IBAN: DE 565011080061616 03755

7. For the convenience of the Parties, for each of the years of the financial period the Executive Director of UNEP shall as soon as possible notify the Parties to the Agreement of their assessed contributions.

8. Contributions received into the Trust Fund that are not immediately required to finance activities shall be invested at the discretion of the United Nations, and any income shall be credited to the Trust Fund.

9. The Trust Fund shall be subject to audit by the United Nations Board of Auditors.

10. The budget estimates covering income and expenditures for each of the three calendar years constituting the financial period to which they relate, prepared in Euros, shall be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement.

11. The estimates of each of the calendar years covered by the financial period shall be divided into sections and objects of expenditure, shall be specified according to budget lines, shall include references to the programmes of work to which they relate, and shall be accompanied by such information as may be required by or on behalf of the contributors, and such further information as the Executive Director of UNEP may deem useful and advisable. In particular, estimates shall also be prepared for each programme of work for each of the calendar years, with expenditure itemized for each programme so as to correspond to the sections, objects of expenditure, and budget lines described in the first sentence of this paragraph.

12. In addition to the budget estimates for the financial period described in the preceding paragraphs, the Secretariat of the Agreement, in consultation with the Standing Committee of the Agreement and the Executive Director of UNEP, shall prepare a medium-term plan as envisaged in chapter III of the Legislative and Financial Texts Regarding the United Nations Environment Programme and Environment Fund. The medium-term plan will cover the years 2006-2012, inclusive, and shall incorporate the budget for the financial period 2006-2008.

13. The proposed budget and medium-term plan, including all the necessary information, shall be dispatched by the Secretariat to all Parties at least 90 days before the date fixed for the opening of the Meeting of the Parties.

14. The budget and medium-term plan shall be adopted by unanimous vote of the Parties present and voting at the Meeting of the Parties.

15. In the event that the Executive Director of UNEP anticipates that there might be a shortfall in resources over the financial period as a whole, the Executive Director shall consult with the Secretariat, which shall seek the advice of the Standing Committee as to its priorities for expenditure.

16. Commitments against the resources of the Trust Fund may be made only if they are covered by the necessary income of the Agreement. No commitments shall be made in advance of the receipt of contributions.

17. Upon the request of the Secretariat of the Agreement, after seeking the advice of the Standing Committee, the Executive Director of UNEP should, to the extent consistent with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations, make transfers from one budget line to another. At the end of the first or second calendar year of the financial period, the Executive Director of UNEP may proceed to transfer any uncommitted balance of appropriations to the second or third calendar year respectively, provided that the total budget approved by the Parties shall not exceed, unless this is specifically sanctioned in writing by the Standing Committee.

18. At the end of each calendar year of the financial period[15], the Executive Director of UNEP shall submit to the Parties, through the Agreement Secretariat, the accounts for the year. The Executive Director shall also submit, as soon as practicable, the audited accounts for the financial period. These shall include full details of actual expenditure compared to the original provisions for each budget line.

19. Those financial reports required to be submitted to the Executive Director of UNEP shall be transmitted simultaneously by the Secretariat of the Agreement to the members of the Standing Committee.

20. The Secretariat of the Agreement shall provide the Standing Committee with an estimate of proposed expenditures over the coming year simultaneously with, or as soon as possible after, distribution of the accounts and reports referred to in the preceding paragraphs.

21. The present terms of reference shall be effective from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2008.

Appendix IV

ELIGIBILITY FOR SPONSORSHIP FOR AEWA MEETINGS

N°	Party	Proposed rules UN Scale in % 2004*
1	Albania	0.005
2	Benin	0.002
3	Bulgaria	0.017
4	Congo	0.001
5	Croatia	0.037
6	Denmark	0.718
7	Djibouti	0.001
8	Egypt	0.120
9	European Community	2.500
10	Equatorial Guinea	0.002
11	Finland	0.533
12	France	6.030
13	Gambia	0.001
14	Georgia	0.003
15	Germany	8.662
16	Ghana	0.004
17	Guinea	0.003
18	Hungary	0.126
19	Ireland	0.350
20	Israel	0.467
21	Jordan	0.011
22	Kenya	0.009
23	Lebanon	0.024
24	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.132
25	Lithuania	0.024
26	Luxembourg	0.077
27	Macedonia; FYR	0.006
28	Mali	0.002
29	Mauritius	0.011
30	Moldova; Republic of	0.001
31	Monaco	0.003
32	Netherlands	1.690
33	Niger	0.001
34	Nigeria	0.042
35	Portugal	0.470

N°	Party	Proposed rules UN Scale in % 2004*
38	Slovakia	0.051
39	Slovenia	0.082
40	South Africa	0.292
41	Spain	2.520
42	Sudan	0.008
43	Sweden	0.998
44	Switzerland	1.197
45	Syrian Arab Republic	0.038
46	Tanzania; United Republic of	0.006
47	Togo	0.001
48	Tunisia	0.032
49	Uganda	0.006
50	Ukraine	0.039
51	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6.127
52	Uzbekistan	0.014

Parties which are considered eligible for financial support to attend relevant AEWA-sponsored meetings.

Parties which are considered non-eligible for financial support to attend relevant AEWA-sponsored meetings.

* UN Scale of Assessment 2004 at 3 March 2004 (UN Doc. A/RES/58/1 B)

RESOLUTION 3.15

DATE, VENUE AND FUNDING OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Recalling Article VI, paragraph 2, of the Agreement, which states that the Agreement Secretariat shall convene, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat, ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties at intervals of not more than three years, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise,

Noting that the Government of Senegal hosted the third session of the Meeting of the Parties, to be held in Dakar, 23-27 October 2005,

Appreciating the benefits that may accrue to the Agreement and to Parties, particularly those with developing economies, to host sessions of the Meeting of the Parties in different regions in the Agreement area.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Decides* that the Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP4) shall take place before the end of 2008, and urges the Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to ensure that MOP4 takes place after the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention;

2. *Welcomes* and accepts with great appreciation the offer from Madagascar to host the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.

RESOLUTION 3.16

TRIBUTE TO THE ORGANISERS

Recalling the offer of the Government of the Republic of Senegal to host the third session of the Meeting of Parties; which was accepted by the Standing Committee at its second meeting with great appreciation,

Aware of the significant effort undertaken in the organisation of the current session of the Meeting of the Parties by the Government of Senegal,

Appreciating financial support provided by the Government of Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to facilitated participation by as many Range States as possible,

Further appreciating financial support provided by the Government of Denmark and Switzerland for preparation of substantial documents for the current session of the Meeting of Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Senegal on the arrangements made to provide an excellent venue and facilities for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties;

2. *Congratulates* the Agreements Secretariat on the excellent preparation of the current third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement;

3. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Secretariat of the Convention for the support provided to the Agreements Secretariat in organising the current meeting;

4. *Also expresses* its appreciation to the Governments of Denmark, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for their support to facilitate participation by many Range States and/ or the preparation of substantial documents for the current session of the Meeting of Parties.

RESOLUTION 3.17

CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

Sponsored by the United Kingdom

Conscious of the findings of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change's *Third Assessment Report – Climate Change 2001*, especially in relation to the vulnerability of habitats and species to the direct and indirect consequences of unprecedented changes to the global climate,

Further conscious of the role that AEWA has in facilitating achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),

Also aware of the findings of the CBD Technical Report on interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change and that this Report is to be follow-up by one issued in 2006 on the integration of biodiversity considerations in the implementation of climate change adaptation activities at the local level through to the international level,

Recognizing that climate change may significantly change the ecological character of the habitats of migratory waterbirds, *inter alia*, through changed patterns of land-use, the loss of intertidal habitats through rising sea-levels, the loss or degradation of wetlands, possible increases in mortality caused by potential changes in harvest regimes, and changes in distribution of waterbird diseases and their vectors; and that such changes operating at different scales will have consequences for the status and trends of waterbird populations,

Recognizing also that climate change may significantly affect the behaviour of migratory waterbirds, bringing about changes in the timing of reproduction and migration, and in spatial patterns of habitat use, *inter alia*, through changes in the ecological character of habitats,

Noting that the regulation of harvesting, to remain in accordance with the principle of sustainable use as envisaged by the Action Plan, should be responsive to significant changes in pressures on waterbirds caused by climate change,

Aware that strategies for the conservation of protected areas for waterbirds, developed according to the ecosystem approach, need to take into account the potential effects of climate change and be adapted to ensure the maintenance of the ecological functions of the individual areas within the framework of flyway-scale networks,

Noting also that such changes will significantly influence measures to achieve AEWA's fundamental objective, which is to maintain migratory waterbird species in a favourable conservation status, or restore them to such status, and yet aware that the Agreement's Action Plan makes no reference to the complex issues raised by climatic change and its direct and indirect consequences,

Conscious that the possible effects of climate change on ecosystems and biological diversity have been noted by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and that in particular CMS has recognized the need to ensure that its decisions are based on the best and most recent scientific data available,

Aware that the Scientific Council of CMS has established a working group to review scientific work being undertaken on climate change, to assess the relevance of this to migratory species and the aims of CMS, and to strengthen links with other bodies working on this issue,

Noting the desk study into the effects of climate change on migratory species commissioned by the UK Government earlier this year found:

- migratory species have, and will continue to be, adversely affected by climate change – over 80% of CMS listed bird species face some threat from it, almost half because of changes in water regimes,
- migratory waders, such as the Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, are expected to face large population declines and the Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* faces extinction,
- that knowledge of the likely impacts of future climate change varies greatly between taxonomic groups, but the best knowledge exists for birds,
- that confident predictions on breeding performance and survival need to be underpinned by more research, and
- that changes to water regimes and loss of vulnerable habitats are likely to affect the greatest number of migratory species, and in many cases a reduction in human impacts will help species adapt.

Conscious that the possible effects of climate change with relevance to waterbirds and their habitats have also been recognized by other MEAs, notably the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and for the desirability for AEWA to consider these issues and the work done by them given the scale and nature of likely impacts on migratory waterbirds.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Instructs* the Technical Committee, working with the Agreement Secretariat, and taking into consideration the work of the CMS Scientific Council and others as appropriate, to give priority, resources permitting, to an assessment of current evidence of the effects of changing climate on migratory waterbirds, a review of the implications of modelled future patterns of climate change on waterbirds, and an outline of possible means of adapting to these changes, and to report conclusions to a future Meeting of the Parties;

2. *Requests* that the Technical Committee's review seeks to identify those species listed in Table 1 of the Agreement's Action Plan that current knowledge suggests are especially vulnerable to the consequences of a changing climate, and to identify measures that may help to maintain such populations;

3. *Requests also* that the Technical Committee's review identifies relevant actions that might be undertaken as part of the international implementation of the Agreement;

4. *Urges* the Secretariat, drawing on the results of the Technical Committee's review, to give priority, resources permitting, to the development of Conservation Guidelines on possible adaptation measures, and requests that these be brought to a future Meeting of the Parties following review by the Technical Committee;

5. *Urges* Parties to address climate change in so far as it is regarded as likely to bring about significant change in the ecological character of wetlands and affect the behaviour of migrating waterbirds;

6. *Stresses* the importance of including potentially beneficial adaptation measures in the development and implementation of single and multi-species action plans at both national and international scales;

7. *Highlights* the need to include relevant actions related to climate change impacts and adaptation in the Agreement's Action Plan, and requests that the Standing Committee, following review by the Technical Committee, communicates any relevant amendments to the Secretariat for consideration by a future Meeting of the Parties; and

8. *Encourages* the Technical Committee to identify international research needs into the effects of climate change on migratory waterbirds and their habitats, so as to better understand implications and appropriate policy responses, that could be taken forward collaboratively with other stakeholders, as resources permit.

RESOLUTION 3.18

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Concerned by the recent spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza subtype H5N1 (HPAI) from South-East Asia to Western Asia and Europe,

Conscious that HPAI has significant actual or potential implications for agriculture and livelihoods, notably poultry-keeping; human health; the sustainable use of wild birds (especially waterbirds); the conservation of bird species (especially those with small populations and/or which are highly localised); and further, that there may be major economic and social impacts in those areas where migratory birds support the livelihoods of human populations, especially in Africa,

Mindful that all currently known cases of human infection with HPAI has been through contact with infected poultry rather than through contact with wild birds,

Noting also that the HPAI is considered to have been spread between countries through a number of different vectors including through the movement of poultry, other avian livestock and cage birds and associated activities to service the respective industries; through both the legal and illegal trade in birds; movements of people; and through the migration of waterbirds, although aware that the relative significance of these means of spread varies spatially and temporally,

Conscious that recent outbreaks in Turkey, Croatia and Romania more strongly suggest that migratory birds play a role in the transmission of HPAI along flyways,

Aware of AEWA's participation in the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza convened in late August 2005 by the Convention on Migratory Species, which comprises representatives and observers from nine international organisations, including four UN bodies,

Acknowledges the opportunities for information exchange provided by the Special Round-table on the spread of HPAI to be held on 19 November 2005 at Nairobi, Kenya, during the next meeting of the Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and encourages the participation of all African CMS Scientific Councillors,

Noting the major involvement and role in this issue of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), notably through the publication in May 2005 of a *Global Strategy for the Progressive Control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza*, and its implementation, *inter alia*, through regional programmes of *Emergency Assistance for Early Detection and Prevention of Avian Influenza* and concerned that the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza should contribute appropriate expertise to current international initiatives, without duplication of effort,

Recognising the particular importance of extensive and long-term data sets relating to bird movements (including ring recovery data), and waterbird counts (notably the International Waterbird Census coordinated by Wetlands International) as an essential information resource that can allow the exploration of possible scenarios of the current HPAI spread including areas of higher relative risk along migratory flyways, and possible policy responses to outbreaks, as well as the important need to support and further develop future monitoring of waterbird populations and assessment of their migratory flyways,

Welcoming the major contributions of technical expertise made by Wetlands International to the consideration of these issues, but in this regard also noting the need urgently to analyse relevant data holdings and other information,

Noting that development of surveillance schemes and contingency planning will need to be determined nationally, but that there are benefits for co-operation, sharing of information, protocols, capacity, and resources between countries,

Concerned that in many countries there is significant lack of information, or misinformation, on important issues related to the spread of HPAI, the risks it may pose, and how to anticipate and respond to outbreaks of HPAI,

Further concerned that ill-informed responses may have unfortunate and possibly disastrous long-term consequences for conservation, especially for some of the species which already have small populations and are globally threatened especially those species listed in Column A, Category 1 of Table 1 of the Agreement's Action Plan, and those species listed in Appendix 1 of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species,

Recalling that the Global Flyways Conference (Edinburgh 2004) called, in particular, for urgent action to assess disease risk, and establish monitoring programmes in relation to migratory waterbird movements, the trade of wild birds, and implications for human health,

Recalling also that the outbreak of H7N7 in The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany was successfully stamped out in 2003 using rigorous control and biosecurity measures, and further welcomes biosecurity measures being taken in the European Union in response to the most recent outbreaks,

Noting that a key objective in responding to HPAI should be that essential genetic resources should in principle remain unaffected.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Calls* for urgent responses to the spread of HPAI including the development of national surveillance schemes and contingency planning which should involve measures which are both immediate, and those which relate to longer-term needs;

2. *Calls also* for very urgent attention from the international community (including bird ringing schemes such as AFRING) for the support of capacity building within Africa related to the essential need to promote the biosecurity of domesticated poultry as well as the rapid development of surveillance programmes for HPAI in populations of both wild and domesticated birds, and monitoring of the movements of wild birds;

3. *Encourages support* of initiatives by IUCN and Wetlands International for a regional meeting in Africa to enhance monitoring and surveillance mechanisms, and co-operation, related to the need to identify and eliminate HPAI;

4. *Requests* Contracting Parties and urges non-contracting Range States to develop and implement programmes of education and public awareness on HPAI, especially aimed at actually or potentially affected stakeholders, in particular those engaged in outdoor activities and the poultry industry;

5. *Strongly supports* the conclusions of WHO, FAO and OIE that attempts to eliminate HPAI in wild bird populations through lethal responses such as culling is not feasible and should not be attempted, not least since it may exacerbate the problem by causing further dispersion of infected birds;

6. *Emphasises* the need quickly to research and establish the data and analysis required to enable or improve risk assessments by:

- clarifying virus behaviour:

  i) in different waterbird populations (especially viral incubation periods, the infectious period in birds and the symptoms affecting individual wild birds), as well as determining their survival rates; and

  ii) in the aquatic habitats which are waterbird breeding, staging and non-breeding (wintering) areas;

- establishing informed assessment of the possibility of transmission from wild populations to domestic flocks, including by non-waterbird species found near poultry-keeping areas;
- clarifying prevalence of HPAI in wild bird populations;
- identifying the nature of migration routes and timings for key migratory waterbirds so as to expand and/or refine existing ecological monitoring of these populations;
- developing a combined risk assessment based on the known behaviour of the virus, risks of transmission, routes and timing of migratory species, as well as known poultry husbandry techniques; and
- improving farming standards and developing strategies to limit the risk of any disease transmission between wild and domestic birds;

7. *Urges* Contracting Parties in their planning and execution of national response strategies to develop fully integrated approaches to address the issues raised by the spread of HPAI that brings together and incorporates virological, epidemiological, medical, ornithological and wildlife management expertise;

8. *Strongly Urges* that Contracting Parties, especially those in Africa, urgently to disseminate this Resolution widely within their administrations, and to relevant agencies, institutions and organisations, such that it may be used for information and as a basis of planning national responses to the potential spread of HPAI;

9. *Requests* that African Contracting Parties and non-contracting Range States co-ordinate their responses to the threats posed by the spread of HPAI through the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

10. *Recommends* that special attention and monitoring by veterinary authorities in those areas holding waterbirds that may have migrated from regions where there have already been outbreaks of HPAI;

11. *Urges* in particular that hunting communities, in the framework of existing hunting activities, contribute to monitoring the spread of HPAI and co-operate actively with national authorities in the event that measures, *inter alia*, special temporary hunting regulations are considered or put into force;

12. *Urges* Contracting Parties, other Range States and international organisations to support research and monitoring related to disease processes in wild bird populations given the potential significance of these in terms of bird conservation and population regulation, so as to be better prepared for the future management of avian disease outbreaks; and

13. *Instructs* the Secretariat to continue to contribute to the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza, engaging with relevant expertise within AEWA's Technical Committee and Contracting Parties, and assist the Task Force to disseminate to Contracting Parties, the media and others, clear information and scientific assessments related to the developing situation.

RESOLUTION 3.19

IMPLEMENTING THE ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY

Acknowledging that sustainable use provides incentives for conservation and restoration because of the social, cultural and economic benefits that people derive from that use and that, in turn, sustainable use cannot be achieved without effective conservation measures,

Recalling that the CBD Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (AAPGs) were adopted by the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2004, and welcoming the wide support of Parties to the CBD for the AAPGs,

Acknowledging that the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, Bangkok, 2004) directed the CITES Secretariat to, *inter alia*, incorporate consideration of the AAPGs into its workplan,

Recognizing that the implementation of the AAPGs could contribute to reducing many of the causes of avoidable loss of migratory waterbirds birds (e.g. unsustainable harvesting etc.) and conservation of habitats,

Further recognizing that the AAPGs could provide AEWA Parties with an important tool to contribute to the 2010 target endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and also to the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting that the AAPGs can be utilized by Parties in the implementation of the Agreement, particularly of Article III and IV as well as other relevant provisions.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Invites* AEWA Parties to make full use of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity as the relevant framework for the sustainable use of biodiversity in collaboration with the AEWA Secretariat and the Technical Committee and to ensure that they are fully taken into account as the work and scope of the Agreement develops;

2. *Encourages* AEWA Parties to:

   (a) report case studies that describe both positive and negative experiences in the implementation and outcomes of sustainable use programmes and to identify lessons learned; and

   (b) provide these case studies to the AEWA Secretariat and other relevant organizations for wider dissemination and transmission to meetings of the Parties.

RESOLUTION 3.20

REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

Considering that the Government of the Republic of Senegal is the current interim Secretariat of the Environmental Component of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),

Aware of the important role of the African Ministerial Council on Environment (AMCEN) in the Implementation of the Environmental Component of NEPAD,

Conscious of the link with regard to biodiversity between the Environmental Component of NEPAD and the Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) including especially CMS, AEWA, CBD, CITES and Ramsar,

Conscious of the problems of coordination and the need for consultations among African countries before and during the Meeting of Parties to fully benefit from the outcomes of the MEAs.

The Meeting of Parties:

1. *Requests* the Government of the Republic of Senegal to approach the African Union to support African Contracting Parties and to enhance regional coordination and to assess the legal aspects of a possible ratification in view of the provisions of the CMS and the Agreement;

2. *Further requests* the Government of the Republic of Senegal to approach the African Union (AU) to ensure that the Union obtains an observer status to the MEAs in the interim period.

DECISION 3.1

REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF AEWA

Concerned about the situation regarding the position of the Executive Secretary of the AEWA,

Noting with great appreciation that UNEP has informed the Third Meeting of the Parties that active steps are being undertaken for the recruitment of an Executive Secretary for AEWA and that therefore this process shall be finalized as soon as possible in line with UN recruitment procedures,

Acknowledging with great appreciation the successes the AEWA Secretariat reached so far, as already reflected in the report of the Chair of the Standing Committee to the Third Meeting of the Parties and in Resolution 3.16, which paid tribute to the organizers of the Third Meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties

Requests the Executive Director of UNEP to finalize recruitment of the AEWA Executive Secretary swiftly.

ANNEX II

RULES OF PROCEDURE
FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

Purpose

Rule 1

These rules of procedure shall apply to any Session of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, convened in accordance with article VI of the Agreement.

Insofar as they are applicable, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any other meeting held in the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.

Definitions

Rule 2

For the purpose of these rules:

a) "Agreement" means the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, concluded on 16 June 1995 at The Hague, the Netherlands and entered into force on 1 November 1999. This Agreement is an agreement within the meaning of article IV paragraph 3 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

b) "Convention" means the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979.

c) "Parties" means the Contracting Parties to the Agreement.

d) "Meeting of the Parties " means the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with article VI;

e) "Session" means any ordinary or extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties convened in accordance with article VI of the Agreement.

f) The "President" means the President elected in accordance with rule 21, paragraph 1, of the present rules of procedure;

g) "Subsidiary body" means all committees or working groups established by the Meeting of the Parties;

h) "Technical Committee" means the body established in accordance with article VII;

i) "Standing Committee" means the body established by Resolution 2.6 as adopted at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties;

j) The "Meeting Committee", means the body established in accordance with Rule 26 (1).

k) "Secretariat" means the Secretariat of the Agreement established in accordance with article VIII;

l) "Proposal" means a draft resolution or recommendation submitted by one or more Parties, by the Standing Committee, by the Meeting Committee or by the Secretariat.

Place of Meetings

Rule 3

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall take place in the country chosen by the previous Meeting of the Parties on the basis of a formal invitation that should have been issued to this effect by the responsible authority of that country. If more than one Party issues an invitation to host the next session of the Meeting of the Parties, and two or more invitations are maintained after informal consultations, the Meeting of the Parties shall decide on the venue of the next session by secret ballot.

2. If no invitation has been received, the session of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in the country where the Secretariat has its seat, unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat of the Agreement or the Secretariat of the Convention.

Dates of Meetings

Rule 4

1. Ordinary session of the Meetings of the Parties shall be held at intervals of not more than three years.

2. At each ordinary session, the Meeting of the Parties shall determine the year and venue of the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties. The exact dates and duration of each ordinary session shall be established by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat and the host country of the meeting. Where it is possible to do so, such sessions should be held in conjunction with the ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

3. Extraordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties shall be convened on the written request of at least one third of the Parties.

4. An extraordinary session shall be convened not later than ninety days after the request in accordance with paragraph 3 of this rule has been received.

5. In the event of an emergency situation, the Technical Committee may urgently request the Secretariat to convene a meeting of Parties concerned.

Rule 5

The Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the date, venue, and provisional agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties at least 12 months before the session is due to commence. The notification shall include the draft agenda for the meeting and the deadline for submission of proposals by the Parties. Only Parties, the Standing Committee, the Technical Committee, the Meeting Committee and the Secretariat shall be entitled to submit proposals.

Observers

Rule 6

1. The Secretariat shall notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, in its role as Depositary of the Agreement, the United Nations, its specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, any Range State not Party to the Agreement, and the secretariats of international conventions concerned *inter alia* with the conservation, including protection and management, of migratory waterbirds of the session of the Meeting of the Parties so that they may be represented as observers.

2. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session of the Meeting of the Parties unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

Rule 7

1. Any agency or body, national or international, whether governmental or non-governmental, technically qualified in conservation matters or in research on migratory waterbirds, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at the Meetings of the Parties by observers, shall be admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object. Once admitted these observers shall have the right to participate but not to vote.

2. Bodies or agencies desiring to be represented at the meeting by observers shall submit the names of their representatives, and in case of national non-governmental bodies or agencies, evidence of the approval of the State in which they are located, to the Secretariat at least one month prior to the opening of the session.

3. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the President participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

4. Seating limitations may require that no more than two observers from any Range State not a Party, body or agency be present at a session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Secretariat shall notify those concerned of such limitations in advance of the meeting.

5. A standard participation fee may be fixed by the Secretariat of the Agreement, to be paid in advance of the Meeting by all non-governmental organisations. The fee will be announced in the letter of invitation and this Meeting will determine any fee for the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Agenda

Rule 8

The Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each meeting, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee.

Rule 9

The provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall include, as appropriate:

a) Items arising from the articles or the Annexes of the Agreement;

b) Items, the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous meeting or which emanate from decisions taken at a previous meeting;

c) Items referred to in rule 15 of the present rules of procedure;

d) Any item proposed by a Party, the Standing Committee, the Technical Committee or the Secretariat.

Rule 10

Except for proposals made in accordance with article X of the Agreement, the official documents for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, as referred to in Rule 54, and proposals received in accordance with rule 5, shall be distributed in the official languages by the Secretariat to the Parties at least sixty days before the opening of the meeting.

Rule 11

The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, include any item which has been proposed by a Party and has been received by the Secretariat after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the meeting, in a supplementary provisional agenda.

Rule 12

The Meeting of the Parties shall examine the provisional agenda together with any supplementary provisional agenda. When adopting the agenda, it may add, delete, defer, or amend items. Only items which are considered by the Meeting of the Parties to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

Rule 13

The provisional Agenda for an extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the extraordinary meeting. The provisional agenda and any necessary supporting documents shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary meeting.

Rule 14

The Secretariat shall report to the Meeting of the Parties on the administrative and financial implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the meeting, before these items are considered by the meeting. Unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise, no such item shall be considered until the Meeting of the Parties has received the Secretariat's report on the financial and administrative implications.

Rule 15

Any item of the agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, consideration of which has not been completed at the meeting, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

Representation and Credentials

Rule 16

Each Party participating in a meeting shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives, and advisers as the Party may deem necessary. Logistics and other limitations may require that no more than four delegates of any range State be present at a plenary session. The Secretariat shall notify Parties of any such limitations in advance of the meeting.

Rule 17

A representative may be designated as an alternate head of delegation. An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of Delegation.

Rule 18

1. The original of the statement of credentials of the head of delegation and other representatives, alternate representatives, and advisers, shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Agreement or to his/ her designated representative if possible not later that twenty-four hours after opening of the meeting. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Secretary or the representative of the Secretary.

2. The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or his/her equivalent, or on their behalf by an ambassador who is duly authorized. If other authorities in a Contracting Party are entitled to issue credentials for international meetings, this should have been notified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Secretary in advance of the meeting.

3. The credentials must bear a full signature of the appropriate authority or else be sealed and initialed by that authority. The seal and/or letterheading should clearly indicate that the credentials have been issued by the appropriate authority.

4. A representative may not exercise the right to vote unless his/ her name is clearly and unambiguously listed in the credentials.

5. If credentials are submitted in a language other than one of the working languages of the Agreement (French and English), they shall be accompanied by a suitable translation into one of these two languages to permit efficient validations of the credentials by the Credentials Committee.

Rule 19

A Credentials Committee composed of at least two Parties of the African region and two of the Eurasian region, elected at the first session of each ordinary meeting, shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Meeting of the Parties for approval.

Rule 20

Pending a decision of the Meeting of the Parties upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the meeting.

Officers

Rule 21

1. At the commencement of the first session of each ordinary meeting, a President and a Vice-President shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting, on the basis of a proposal put forward by the Meeting Committee. In preparing its proposal on this matter, the Meeting Committee shall consider first the candidate(s) put forward by the host country of the meeting for the post of President of the meeting.

2. The President shall participate in the meeting in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the party in the meeting and to exercise the right to vote.

Rule 22

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the meeting, preside at the sessions of the meeting, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order.

2. The President may propose to the Meeting of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, limitations on the time to be allowed to speakers and the number of times each Party or observer may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate, and the suspension or the adjournment of a session.

3. The President, in the exercise of the functions of that office, remains under the authority of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 23

The President, if temporarily absent from a session or any part thereof, shall designate the Vice-President to act as President. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Rule 24

If the President and/or Vice-President resign or are otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of the office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that office's mandate.

Rule 25

At the first session of each ordinary meeting, the President of the previous ordinary meeting, or in the absence of the President, a representative of the same Party, shall preside until the Meeting of the Parties has elected a President for the meeting.

The Meeting Committee, other Committees and Working Groups

Rule 26

1. The Meeting Committee is established. It shall consist of the President of the previous ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, the elected President and Vice-President of the current Meeting of the Parties, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, and the Chairperson of the Technical Committee. The Secretariat of the Agreement shall assist and support the Meeting Committee. The Meeting Committee may invite observers to attend the Meeting Committee, as they deem appropriate. The Meeting Committee shall be chaired by the President of the current session of the Meeting of the Parties.

2. The Meeting Committee shall meet at least once daily to review the progress of the meeting, including the draft of the report of the previous day prepared by the Secretariat, and to provide advice to the President in order to ensure the smooth development of the rest of the proceedings.

3. The Meeting of the Parties may establish other committees and working groups if it deems it necessary for the implementation of the Agreement. Where appropriate, meetings of these bodies shall be held in conjunction with the Meeting of the Parties.

4. The Meeting of the Parties may decide that any such body may meet in the period between ordinary meetings.

5. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, the chairperson for each such body shall be elected by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties shall determine the matters to be considered by each such body.

6. Subject to paragraph 5 of this rule, each body shall elect its own officers. No officers may be re-elected for a third consecutive term.

7. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of such bodies, except that:

a) A majority of the Parties designated by the Meeting of the Parties to take part in any such body shall constitute a quorum, but in the event of the body being open-ended, one quarter of the Parties shall constitute a quorum;

b) The chairperson of any such body may exercise the right to vote;

c) There shall be no requirement to provide interpretation in committee or working group sessions, including the Meeting Committee.

Secretariat

Rule 27

1. The Head of the Agreement Secretariat shall be the Secretary of the Meeting of the Parties. The Secretary or the representative of the Secretary shall act in that capacity in all sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and of subsidiary bodies.

2. The Secretary shall provide and direct the staff as required by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 28

The Secretariat shall, in accordance with these rules:

a) Arrange for interpretation at the meeting;

b) Prepare, receive, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the meeting;

c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the meeting;

d) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the meeting;

e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the meeting;

f) Draft the report of the meeting for consideration by the Meeting Committee first and for final approval by the Meeting of the Parties; and

g) Generally perform all other work that the Meeting of the Parties may require.

Conduct of Business

Rule 29

1. Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.

2. Sessions of subsidiary bodies shall be held in private unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.

3. Delegations shall be seated in accordance with the alphabetical order of the English language names of the Parties.

Rule 30

The President may declare a session of the meeting open and permit the debate to proceed if at least one half of the Parties to the Agreement are present, and may take a decision when representatives of at least one half of the Parties are present.

Rule 31

1. No one may speak at a session of the Meeting of the Parties without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rule 32, 33, 34 and 36, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

2. The Meeting of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each Party or observer may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.

3. A speaker shall not be interrupted except on a point of order. He may, however, with the permission of the President, give way during his/her speech to allow any other representative or observer to request clarification on a particular point in that speech.

4. During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers, and with the consent of the meeting, declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if a speech delivered after the list has been closed makes this desirable.

Rule 32

The chairperson or rapporteur of a subsidiary body may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary body.

Rule 33

During the discussion of any matter, a Party may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President in accordance with these rules. A Party may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 34

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Meeting of the Parties to discuss any matter or adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Rule 35

1. Proposals for amendment of the Agreement may be made by any Party. According to article X the text of any proposed amendment and the reason for it shall be communicated to the Agreement Secretariat not less that one hundred and fifty days before the opening of the session.

2. A new proposal, other than in paragraph 1 of this rule, that was not submitted to the Secretariat at least 60 days before the opening of the meeting and amendments to proposals, shall be introduced in writing by the Parties and handed to the Secretariat in at least one of the official languages, for submission to the Meeting Committee.

3. A new proposal shall deal only with matters that could not have been foreseen in advance of the session or arise out of the discussions at the session. The Meeting Committee shall decide if the new proposal meets this requirement, so as to introduce it formally for consideration by the meeting. If a new proposal is rejected by the Meeting Committee, the sponsor(s) shall be entitled to request the President to submit the question of its admissibility to a vote, as per Rule 34. The sponsor(s) shall be given the opportunity to make one intervention to present the arguments in favour of the introduction of the new proposal, and the President shall explain the reasons for its rejection by the Meeting Committee.

4. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any session unless copies of it, translated into the official languages of the Meeting of the Parties, have been circulated to delegations not later than the day preceding the session. Nevertheless, the President may permit the discussion and consideration of amendments to proposals or of procedural motions and, in exceptional circumstances, in cases of urgency and when deemed useful to advance the proceedings, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals even though these proposals, amendments or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day or have not been translated into all the official languages of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 36

1. Subject to rule 33, the following motions shall have precedence, in the order indicated below, over all other proposals or motions:

a) To suspend a session;

b) To adjourn a session;

c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion; and

d) For the closure of the debate on the question under discussion.

2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within (a) to (d) above shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Rule 37

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

Rule 38

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the Meeting of the Parties, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, decides in favour of reconsideration. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover and one other supporter, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Voting

Rule 39

Each Party shall have one vote. Regional economic integration organisations, which are Parties to this Agreement shall, in matters within their competence, exercise their voting rights with a number of votes equal to the number of their Member States which are Parties to the Agreement. A regional economic integration organization shall not exercise its right to vote if its Member States exercise theirs, and *vice versa*.

Rule 40

1. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a simple majority vote of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Agreement such as in the case of:

a) The adoption of the budget for the next financial period and any changes to the scale of assessment, which require unanimity (article V);

2. If on matters other than elections a vote is equally divided, a second vote shall be taken. If this vote is also equally divided, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

3. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "Parties present and voting" means Parties present at the session at which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Rule 41

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Meeting of the Parties, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Meeting of the Parties may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 42

Any representative may request that any parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. The President shall allow the request unless a Party objects. If objection is made to the request for separate voting, the President shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

Rule 43

If the motion referred to in rule 42 is adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal, which are approved, shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Rule 44

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises parts of that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

Rule 45

If two or more amendments to a proposal are put forward, the Meeting of the Parties shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The President shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule.

Rule 46

Voting, except for elections and the decision on the venue of the next ordinary meeting, shall normally be by show of hands. A roll-call vote shall be taken if one is requested by any Party; it shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties participating in the meeting, beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lot by the President. However, if at any time a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question, provided that this request is accepted by a simple majority of the Parties present and voting. The President shall be responsible for the counting of the votes, assisted by tellers appointed by the Meeting, and shall announce the result.

Rule 47

1. The vote of each Party participating in a roll-call vote shall be expressed by "Yes", or "No", or "Abstain" and shall be recorded in the relevant documents of the meeting.

2. When the meeting votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote.

Rule 48

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual proceedings. The President may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, but may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit those who put forward proposals or amendments to proposals to explain their vote on their own proposals or amendments, except if they have been amended.

Rule 49

All elections and the decision on the venue of the next ordinary meeting shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 50

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains a majority of votes cast by the Parties present and voting in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken between the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If a tie then results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1 of this rule.

Rule 51

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, the number of candidates must not exceed the number of such places, those obtaining the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting in the first ballot shall be deemed elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places. The voting shall then be restricted to the candidates that obtained the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot and shall not exceed twice the places that remain to be filled. After the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation.

3. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots and shall not exceed twice the places that remain to be filled. The following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

Languages

Rule 52

The official and working languages of the Meeting of the Parties shall be English and French.

Rule 53

1. Statements made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official language.

2. A representative of a Party may speak in a language other than an official language, if the Party provides for interpretation into one such official language.

Documents

Rule 54

1. Official documents of the meetings shall be drawn up in one of the official languages and translated into the other official language.

2. Financial limitations may make it necessary to limit the number of documents provided to each Party Party and observer. The Secretariat shall encourage Parties and observers to download the documents from the Agreement Web site on the Internet or to receive them on a computer diskette, so as to save costs of photocopying and mailing.

3. Any documents, including proposals, submitted to the Secretariat in any language other than a working language shall be accompanied by a translation into one of the working languages.

4. When in doubt, the Secretariat shall ask the approval of the Meeting Committee for issuing a document as an official document of the meeting.

5. Parties and observers wishing to distribute documents that have not been approved as official documents of the meeting shall make their own arrangements for distribution, after having sought the advice of the Secretariat on how to proceed.

Sound Recordings of the Meeting

Rule 55

Sound recordings of the Meeting of the Parties, and whenever possible of its subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Secretariat.

Entering into Force and Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

Rule 56

These rules of procedure shall enter into force immediately after their adoption Amendments to these rules shall be adopted by consensus by the Meeting of the Parties, upon a proposal by one or more Parties and/or the Standing Committee.

Overriding authority of the Agreement

Rule 57

In the event of a conflict between any provision of these rules and any provision of the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail.

ANNEX III

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ANNEX IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Document No.	Agenda item	Title
Meeting Papers		
MOP 3.1		List of Documents
MOP 3.2	2	Rules of Procedure
MOP 3.3	4	Provisional Annotated Agenda
MOP 3.4	4	Provisional Work Programme
MOP 3.5	6	Admission of Observers
MOP 3.6	8.a.	Report of the Standing Committee
MOP 3.7	8.b.	Report of the Technical Committee
MOP 3.8	8.c.	Report of the Depositary
MOP 3.9	8.d.	Report of the Secretariat
MOP 3.10	10	Report on the performance of the AEWA International Implementation Priorities 2003-2007
MOP 3.11	16	Proposal for Guidance on the Definition of the Term "significant long-term decline" of Waterbird Populations
MOP 3.12	16	Proposal for Guidance on the Definition of Biogeographical Populations of Waterbirds
MOP 3.13	17	Preliminary Synthesis of Information provided by AEWA Parties through national reports on implementation of the Agreement for the triennium 2003-2005
MOP 3.14	17	Preliminary synthesis of information provided by AEWA Parties on phasing out of lead shot use in wetlands
MOP 3.15	18	Overview of international reviews necessary for the implementation of the agreement to be submitted to MOP4 in 2008
MOP 3.16	21	Proposal for New Species to be Added to AEWA Annex 2
MOP 3.17	23	Communication Strategy (Revised Final Draft)
MOP 3.18	24	Draft AEWA International Implementation Priorities 2006-2008
MOP 3.19	25	Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta Bernicla hrota* - East Canadian High Arctic Population
MOP 3.20	25	Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*
MOP 3.21	25	Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*
MOP 3.22	25	Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*
MOP 3.23	25	Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Corncrake *Crex crex*
MOP 3.24	26.c.	Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee
MOP 3.25	26.c.	Proposal to Reduce the Costs linked to Meetings of the Technical Committee
MOP 3.26	27	Report on Income and Expenditure for 2003-2005
MOP 3.27	27	Guidelines for Determining Priorities for AEWA Financial Support
MOP 3.28	27	Draft Budget Proposal for 2006-2008
MOP 3.29	21	Proposal for amendment of the Action Plan of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
MOP 3.30	27	Private sector fundraising for the UNEP/CMS family
MOP 3.31	16	Status review of four populations of three species of ducks (Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and Pintail *Anas acuta*)

Document No.	Agenda item	Title
Resolutions		
Res. 3.1	12	Closure of the Register of International Projects
Res. 3.2	16	Procedures to Review Biogeographical Limits of Waterbird Populations
Res. 3.3	16	Developing Guidelines for Interpretation of Criteria Used in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan
Res. 3.4	17	Submission of National Reports to MOP3
Res. 3.5	18	Development of an Online National Report Format
Res. 3.6	19	Developing an International Partnership for Support of Waterbird Population Assessments
Res. 3.7	20	Implementing the Conclusions of the *Waterbirds around the World* Conference
Res. 3.8	21	Amendments to the Annexes to the Agreement
Res. 3.9	22	Development of a Strategic Plan for AEWA
Res. 3.10	23	Communication Strategy for AEWA
Res. 3.11	24	AEWA International Implementation Priorities for 2006-2008
Res. 3.12	25	Adoption and Implementation of International Single Species Action Plans
Res. 3.13	26.c.	Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee
Res. 3.14	27	Financial and Administrative Matters
Res. 3.15	31	Date and Venue of MOP4
Res. 3.16	30	A Tribute to the Organizers
Res. 3.17	20	Climate Change and Migratory Waterbirds
Res. 3.18	15	Avian Influenza
Res. 3.19	27	Implementing the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity
Res. 3.20		Request to the Government of the Republic of Senegal
Decision		
Dec. 3.1		Regarding the Executive Secretary of AEWA
Information Documents		
Inf. 3.1	21	Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbird Species in the AEWA Region
Inf. 3.2	21	Draft Strategic Plan for CMS
Inf. 3.3	26.d.	Joint Work Program between CMS, AEWA and Wetlands International
Inf. 3.4	26.d.	Joint Work Plan between Ramsar Bureau, CMS, AEWA and Wetlands International
Inf. 3.5	28	Assessment of the merits of a CMS instrument covering migratory raptors and owls in the African-Eurasian region
Inf. 3.6	28	New Dehli statement on the meeting to conclude and endorse the proposed central asian flyway action plan to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats
Inf. 3.7		Fact Sheet Dakar
Inf. 3.8		List of Participants
Inf. 3.9	27	Fundraising project
Inf. 3.10		Italy's journey towards accession to AEWA
Inf. 3.11	16	Status of the Baltic Wadden Sea Population of the Common Eider *Somateria m. mollissima*
Inf. 3.12	20	Climate Change and Migratory species

ANNEX V

Update on the progress in developing a Single Species Action Plan for the Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*)

The latest version of the draft Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) had been made available in June 2004. The Secretariat had submitted it to the Range States with an invitation to provide comments on the document. Responses had been received from Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and suggestions also came from the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC). Despite reminders, to date no comments had been provided by the other key range states in the species' flyway (countries where the species either breeds, stages or winters), Denmark, France and Russia, nor from range states which the species just flies over: Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. All the comments received had been forwarded to the Chair of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Working Group, which was established to develop and later implement the SSAP.

One of the contentious issues in the draft SSAP was the proposal to reopen hunting of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose in its winter range. In order to provide a scientific basis for further discussion, the AEWA Secretariat had commissioned a project, financially supported by the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, from Alterra (Netherlands) and NERI (Denmark). This scientific study would help to estimate annual survival rates over the period 1955-2003, and the impact of hunting on the population until 1972. The results of this analysis would help range states to reach a consensus on the measures proposed in the SSAP and its finalisation. Outputs were expected to be published in 2006.

PART II

OPENING STATEMENTS

(REPRODUCED IN THE FORM SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT)

STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

République du Sénégal

Un Peuple – Un But – Une Foi

Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature

Son Excellence Monsieur Thierno Lo, Ministre de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature,

Déclaration à l'occasion de l'ouverture de la Troisième Session de la Réunion des Parties Contractantes de l'Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs en Afrique-Eurasie (AEWA), Dakar, Sénégal, 24 Octobre 2006

Permettez-moi tout d' abord, au nom de Monsieur le Président de la République, Maître Abdoulaye Wade, du Premier Ministre Macky Sall, et de l'ensemble du gouvernement et du peuple sénégalais de vous souhaiter la bienvenue au Sénégal, pays de la Téranga.

Après Cap Town en Afrique du Sud en 1999 et Bonn, en Allemagne en 2002, le choix du Sénégal pour abriter la troisième Réunion des Parties contractantes à l'Accord pour la Conservation des Oiseaux d'eau Migrateurs d'Afrique Eurasie, n'est pas fortuit. Il prouve en effet les liens très forts de coopération exemplaire qui existent si heureusement entre le Sénégal et les différentes Parties à l'Accord, mais également le rôle prépondérant que notre pays a joué dans le processus de ratification de cet instrument extrêmement important pour la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs, un maillon essentiel de la biodiversité.
C'est donc pour moi un grand honneur et un immense plaisir de venir procéder ce matin à l'ouverture de cette importante réunion, organe de décision de l'Accord qui, je le rappelle est une forte initiative du Royaume des Pays Bas dans le cadre de l'extension de la Convention sur les espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage (CMS) dite Convention de Bonn à laquelle le Sénégal a souscrit.
Cette rencontre organisée en terre africaine, s'inscrit dans une stratégie de gestion concertée et rationnelle de cette ressource partagée que sont les oiseaux d'eau, conformément aux dispositions des accords et conventions internationaux.

Monsieur le secrétaire exécutif, Mesdames Messieurs, chers délégués,

Nous sommes particulièrement honorés, de constater que les efforts du gouvernement et du peuple sénégalais dans le domaine de la préservation de l'environnement sont reconnus au plan international et encouragés par les partenaires que vous êtes.

Cela constitue pour le Sénégal, à la fois, une source de motivation et un challenge pour atteindre les objectifs du développement durable conformément à la Déclaration du Millénaire en septembre 2000.

Monsieur le secrétaire exécutif,

Le choix porté sur le Sénégal me touche particulièrement compte tenu des multiples efforts et des initiatives en cours pour le renforcement de notre politique de conservation. En effet, le Sénégal, de par sa position géographique particulière, constitue un important couloir de

migration des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique –Eurasie. C'est pourquoi, notre pays, dans sa longue tradition de conservation de la biodiversité, a mis en place un réseau d'aires protégées représentatif des différents biotopes et dans lequel les zones humides occupent une place de choix.
Malheureusement, les zones humides comptent de leur valeur de même que les oiseaux d'eau subissent, depuis quelques décennies, des pressions liées aux activités humaines et éco-climatiques ; car ils constituent un pôle d'attraction avec des usages nouveaux perturbant les caractéristiques, la structure et le fonctionnement de ces écosystèmes fragiles. Face à ces menaces, le Sénégal, cherche à définir une stratégie conciliant conservation de la biodiversité, exploitation durable des ressources naturelles, y compris animales, et développement local. Cet exercice passe nécessairement par une meilleure prise de conscience collective en vue d'harmoniser les pratiques, et rendre plus opérationnel le cadre réglementaire. Cette réflexion est au cœur de la problématique de la mise en place d'une politique nationale sur les zones humides et cela constitue Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif l'une des préoccupations majeures de mon Département.
Par ailleurs pour rappeler les efforts constants que nous déployons dans la conservation de la biodiversité in situ et ex situ, le congrès Mondial sur les parcs tenu en Durban en septembre 2003 a été le prétexte de créer et de multiplier aujourd'hui les Aires Marines Protégées sur les directives éclairées de son Excellence Monsieur le Président de la République.
Permettez moi Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif, Mesdames Messieurs chers délégués de rappeler au passage que ces AMP au delà de leur rôle de protection de la biodiversité marine et côtière joue un rôle éminemment important dans la préservation des oiseaux pélagiques qui sont des indicateurs biologiques de la qualité de l'environnement marin.
Le Sénégal abrite aujourd'hui 25% des populations mondiales de sternes royales et le Parc National du Delta du Saloum constitue un des premiers sites mondial de ponte et de nidification.

Les déplacements saisonniers des oiseaux d'eau qui ignorent les frontières constituent un véritable trait d'union entre les peuples et les nations, et soulignent de manière évidente les liens de coopération à promouvoir entre les pays du nord et du sud, pour une gestion concertée de la biodiversité et des habitats sauvages. Cette approche est d'ailleurs déjà formalisée par les Conventions internationales telles que celles de Ramsar ou de la CMS, ou encore les Accords tels que ceux de l'AEWA, qui constituent aujourd'hui les axes d'orientations majeurs de notre politique environnementale dans le domaine du suivi des oiseaux migrateurs, l'objet de cette MOP 3 n'est ce pas Monsieur le secrétaire Exécutif ?
Cette coopération est d'autant plus nécessaire que le monde connaît aujourd'hui une recrudescence de la Peste Aviaire observée en Asie du Sud Est et dans certains pays européens, et nous savons le rôle imputé à tort ou à raison aux oiseaux d'eau migrateurs qui semble-t-il selon la recherche pourraient êtres des réservoirs de virus. Ainsi, le MEPN en collaboration avec les Ministères de la santé et de l'Elevage mettront en place, à très court terme un programme de surveillance épidémiologique.
La Direction des Parcs Nationaux, à travers les stations biologiques du PNOD et du PNDS, disposent déjà de structures de recherche et de formation qui pourraient servir non seulement dans le cadre du programme de suivi de la peste aviaire mais aussi comme centre fixe de baguage pour suivre la tendance évolutive des populations d'oiseaux migrateurs et afro-tropicaux.
Dans cette approche, le Gouvernement du Sénégal souhaiterait avoir l'appui de la Communauté Internationale et particulièrement les partenaires que vous êtes dans la mise en œuvre de ce programme auquel nous accordons la plus grande importance.
Je suis persuadé, compte tenu de votre grande expertise, que vous formulerez, à travers les différentes sessions de cette MOP3, des propositions concrètes qui traduiront les principes

de valorisation durable des oiseaux d'eau, notamment à travers les deux plans d'action que sont Habitats et Espèces.
Je ne doute guère que cette MOP3 prendra en compte non seulement les modifications réelles et potentielles de l'état de conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs mais également les habitats pour leur survie ainsi que les facteurs susceptibles d'affecter ceux-ci.
Par ailleurs, je vous invite à prendre en compte tous ces aspects importants en passant en revue les progrès accomplis et toutes les difficultés inhérentes à l'application du présent accord.
je voudrais au nom de Monsieur le Président de la République, du Premier Ministre Macky SALL et de l'ensemble du Gouvernement du Sénégal réitérer solennellement au Secrétariat Exécutif de l'AEWA, les remerciements profonds pour l'honneur qui nous est fait aujourd'hui à travers la tenue de cette troisième réunion des Parties Contractantes.

La présence parmi nous du Secrétaire Général du Ministère des Forêts du Royaume des Pays Bas traduit si besoin en est l'engagement de ce Pays ami à œuvrer dans la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources naturelles.
C'est l'occasion pour moi de remercier le Royaume des Pays Bas pour les efforts soutenus qu'il ne cesse de déployer en faveur du Sénégal dans la mise en œuvre de sa politique environnementale.

Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif, mesdames messieurs, Chers délégués, il est clair que le Gouvernement du Sénégal, Responsable du volet Environnemental du NEPAD, ne ménagera aucun effort pour la réussite de ces importantes assises.

Je peux vous assurer que le gouvernement du Sénégal, en particulier, le MEPN mettra en œuvre les recommandations et les orientations issues de vos travaux.

Ainsi, au nom du Gouvernement du Sénégal, je déclare ouverte la troisième session de la réunion des Parties Contractantes de l'Accord pour la Conservation des Oiseaux d'Eau Migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie.

Statement of Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director,
United Nations Environment Programme

to the

3rd Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

Dakar, Senegal
23 - 27 October, 2005

Mr. Prime Minister
Mr. President
Excellencies
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak here today at the opening of the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds. Dr. Töpfer sends his best wishes for the meeting and warmly thanks the Government of the Republic of Senegal for hosting this important event.

Due to other commitments, Dr. Töpfer is unfortunately not able to be with us today. Therefore, he has asked me to deliver his statement.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

AEWA is the largest agreement within the CMS family and this year we are celebrating its 10th anniversary – a true landmark for this Agreement which covers more than 235 species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands.

Throughout history, the migration of animals has been a universal phenomenon. Migrating animals do not only cross borders between countries and continents, they also cross political boundaries between nations with different economies and national priorities. On one hand, these boundaries mean nothing to the animals, but on the other hand they do make a difference in their lives. The existence and survival of these migratory species are dependent on the national conservation policies.

They are also dependent on the fact that the countries they pass have similar objectives, namely to protect the environment, biodiversity and above all to protect and preserve the specific sites that migratory species use on their journeys.

An issue which has been on the lips of all of us for the past few months and which has the full attention of the world media is the so-called “Bird Flu”.

A new Task Force on this Avian Influenza has been established by the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The Task Force comprises representatives and observers from 9 different international organizations, including AEWA. The Task Force has warned that several globally endangered species of birds could be wiped out by the Avian Flu.

The Task Force has concluded that the risks to animal health from the existing Avian Influenza epidemic are real. There is little doubt that it originated within poultry farms, and then infected wild birds. As a result, thousands of wild birds have already died, and millions of domestic birds have been slaughtered, resulting in major economic losses, often affecting the poor communities.

The Task Force has further stated that there is a very real concern that a further mutation of the flu could lead to a pandemic affecting humans in large numbers all over the world. The best chance of avoiding this is to take measures addressing the root causes and based on the best possible knowledge. We know what to do on the animal side, namely improve farming standards, restrict live animal markets and trade, step up research quickly, ensure quality control of animal vaccines, monitoring the occurrence of the Avian Influenza among waterbirds along their migratory routes and avoid counter-productive measures like culling wild birds, or destroying their habitats.

The Task Force is issuing a press release on the topic today and it hopes that this will contribute to the media presenting a more balanced picture focusing on the facts. The Task Force also hopes that action can be taken to reduce the risks of a human pandemic being added to the existing tragedy for birds.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

AEWA has 117 Range States from Canada, Europe, parts of Asia, the Middle East and Africa and 51 Contracting Parties. It is an outstanding achievement that in only 10 years almost half of the Range States have become Contracting Parties to the Agreement. The latest ones who have joined are Ghana and the European Union and I hope more countries are soon to follow.

I would like to congratulate not only AEWA and its staff for this significant result, but also the Range States and the Contracting Parties. The support to this Agreement shows that an ever increasing number of Range States agree on the importance of further strengthening national, regional and international conservation actions. These actions include of course species and habitat conservation, management of human activities, research and monitoring as well as education and information.

I would like to encourage the Range States who have not yet become Contracting Parties to the Agreement to do so. Your commitment and support to the Agreement is crucial in order for it to expand further and in order for us to better protect migratory species.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

Over the past decade, UNEP has contributed significantly towards the implementation of environmental conventions both at the global and national level. We have also supported a number of regional conventions but more needs to be done in order to reach better and more widespread results.

As you are all already aware, one of the targets from the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in September 2002 is to significantly reduce biodiversity loss by 2010. This target places a major responsibility not only on the Parties to this Agreement but on UNEP as well. UNEP's collective work in following this target is led by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

(WCMC). In order for us not to fail in our efforts to reach this target it is important that we work together with the WCMC where the expertise and knowledge is vast.

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreements there under are expressly designed to foster regional co-operation, and to intervene where necessary to ensure the protection of endangered species. Through AEWA and the other agreements, CMS has done a remarkable job to conserve these species, which have roamed our waterways for centuries.

AEWA has had many success stories over the years and has been successful in fostering regional cooperation. Among the most recent successes is the African-Eurasian Flyway project, which is being supported by GEF. The project has a total budget of US$ 12 million and will be implemented by Wetlands International in close cooperation with BirdLife International. The project is unique and the first of its kind for AEWA and in fact only the second GEF funded project within the CMS family. Congratulations for this achievement.

The project fully recognizes that conservation of migratory waterbirds is linked to the maintenance and protection of the wetland areas along their flyways. Not only AEWA but also the RAMSAR Convention are integral in providing technical and legal standards and mechanisms for their coordination. However, for strategic conservation of site networks along flyways additional investments are needed.

Therefore the objective of the project is to develop the trans-boundary strategic measures necessary to conserve the network of critical wetland areas on which migratory waterbirds depend throughout the African / Eurasian flyway.

Consequently, the sixth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity endorsed the joint work programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and recognized CMS as the lead partner for conservation of migratory species. In follow-up to this decision, CBD has received and disseminated through its clearing-house mechanism case-studies in various topics including that on the use of migratory species as indicators of biological diversity and their use in assessment and monitoring, an important tool in monitoring the run up to the 2010 target.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

UNEP fully supports the activities implemented by AEWA and above all we are happy with the new initiatives to protect migratory species. But as said earlier more needs to be done and to that effect additional funds are required from new as well as existing stakeholders. I congratulate AEWA for its efforts to fund raise outside the existing donor base. When doing fund raising we have to be more creative and innovative. As we all know, there is a lot of competition and the funds available for our activities are decreasing.

In the coming days you will review a number of documents and decisions as well as the proposed budget for 2006 – 2008. You will notice that there is a proposed increase in the budget for the next three years. I would encourage you to carefully review it and be favorable in increasing the budget. Whatever the increase in the budget, only the necessary impact will be achieve if additional funds will flow into the

this meeting. By doing so, AEWA has freed up a significant amount for implementation of important activities.

In addition, the Division of Environmental Conventions is looking at other ways on how to strengthen the cooperation between UNEP and AEWA. After this meeting UNEP will sit down with AEWA to identify activities which UNEP could support but most likely awareness raising and outreach activities as contained in the AEWA Communications Strategy.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

We will very soon see the official announcement of the winners in the Individual Category and the Institutional Category of the first ever AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award. Without mentioning names, I would like to express my personal appreciation of your work on the conservation of waterbirds. This has been truly outstanding and remarkable.

I am certain that you serve as role models for many of the delegates present at this meeting and many other people and organizations. The AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award was established by the Standing Committee at its second session to mark the 10th Anniversary of AEWA and will be presented triennially at each session of the Meeting of the Parties. The purpose of the Award is to recognize and honour institutions and individuals that have contributed significantly to the conservation and sustainable use of water birds.

In closing, I would like to once again congratulate AEWA on its 10th anniversary. This meeting is therefore a good moment, not only, to look back on what has been achieved during the last decade under the Agreement, but also to turn toward the future and find new opportunities for successful water bird conservation.

UNEP looks forward to a successful outcome of this meeting and to the implementation of its work programmes in synergy with other biodiversity-related MEAs.

Mr. President, thank you very much for the opportunity to address the 3rd Meeting of the Parties.

I wish the meeting the best in its deliberations on the important issues concerning the effective conservation of Africa-Eurasian migratory water birds.

Thank you.

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STATEMENTS OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

STATEMENT

at the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African – Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds

Dakar, Senegal, 23 – 27 October 2005

October, 2005

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to extend my gratitude on behalf of the Government of Republic of Croatia to the Government of Senegal for hosting the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and their excellent work in the organization of the Meeting. I also express my appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and United Kingdom for facilitating participation of many Range States.

Bird migration is one of the best studied, but also most spectacular natural phenomenons. Close dependence on habitats, complex life cycles and need for different habitats during the year make migratory birds good indicators of the general state of nature, but at the same time they also render them extremely sensitive to habitat changes and other various threats. Migratory birds connect ecosystems, countries and people over continents. The AEWA has objective to ensure long-term conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa, Europe and Asia. Being aware that birds do not recognize national borders, the AEWA puts particular emphasis to the cooperation and harmonization of nature protection efforts in all countries of the regions.

Following the AEWA Action plan the Republic of Croatia developed in 2005 the Inventory of Wetland Habitats (under Ramsar SGF project) and the National Network of Important Sites for Birds (CRO-NEN project Natura 2000). Developing the national inventory of wetland habitats is also in line with the Edinburgh Declaration. The inventory of wetland habitats comprises a total of 390,885 ha of wetland area as well as 50,516 km of rivers and streams. The National Network of Important Sites for Birds includes 40 sites, among which 27 were designed for some waterbird species covered by the Agreement, covering in total 1.467.313 ha. This area comprises a variety of habitats important for breeding, migration or wintering of migratory waterbirds, such as wetlands, fishponds, rivers, sea coast, islands, wet meadows and even flooded forests (for breeding of the Black Stork). All key bird areas meet the criteria of the international importance. The identified areas encompass a comprehensive part of Croatia. The reason for that lies in the fact that Croatia is a country with very diverse habitats and rich ornithofauna. Because of its geographical position, Croatia is part of several migratory routes connecting Europe and Africa. Protected spacious wetland areas, among which four are proclaimed a Ramsar site, are important stopover sites for many species as Ferruginous Ducks, Spoonbills, Black Storks etc.

A very important component of the Natura 2000 project is the establishment of the National Biodiversity Monitoring Programme which includes a wide variety of associate-experts and amateurs. This programme ensures systematic gathering of data and biodiversity monitoring in Croatia. Among recently monitored species, 30 are covered by the AEWA.

I would also like to express the commitment of the Republic of Croatia to continue to strengthen its endeavours for the conservation of migratory waterbirds. The revision of the Nature Protection Strategy and an Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity in 2006 will set up a new policy of nature protection and a revised list of priority Action plans. They will be implemented through new national legislation, especially a new Nature Protection Act which came into force in June 2005. It includes the protection of the overall nature and defines nature as the entire biological and landscape diversity. The Act and its regulations are harmonized with EU directives and relevant international conventions, among other CMS and AEWA. The Red Data Book and National Network of Important Sites will serve as basis for the revision of the Nature Protection Strategy and the Action Plan for Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, I would like to stress that the Republic of Croatia will put all its efforts to preserve its unique biological and landscape diversity in accordance with AEWA and its Action Plan.

Let me finish by saying that AEWA gives the opportunity to join the efforts for the effective protection of waterbirds and their habitats, which will have positive effect in many other fields of nature conservation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

République de Djibouti
Unité – Egalité – Paix

Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique –Eurasie – AEWA

(3ième Réunion des Parties, Dakar, Sénégal, 23-27 octobre 2005)

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Déclaration de la République de Djibouti

Monsieur le Ministre de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature
Monsieur Secrétaire Exécutif de l'Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie
Messieurs les Représentants des pays membres de l'Accord
Messieurs les Représentants des organisations partenaires
Chers participants, Mesdames et Messieurs

Je voudrais d'abord joindre ma voix aux déclarations faites par les autres délégations pour féliciter vivement et remercier en même temps le peuple et le Gouvernement sénégalais pour l'accueil chaleureux qui nous a été réservé.

Cette troisième Session de la Réunion des Parties revêt une importance particulière puisqu'elle précède de quelques jours les Conférences des Parties à la Convention sur les Zones humides et à la Convention sur la Conservation des Espèces Migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage qui se tiendront respectivement du 8 au 15 et du 16 au 25 novembre 2005 à Kampala, Ouganda et Nairobi, Kenya, qui tenteront de faire le bilan des efforts de la communauté internationale dans le domaine de la conservation et de la gestion des ressources naturelles depuis les quatre dernières et chercheront aussi à tracer les perspectives pour les années à venir. Cette réunion qui débute aujourd'hui sera sans doute décisive pour le développement d'une stratégie commune de protection des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs.

Mesdames et Messieurs

Engagés dans une course effrénée vers le développement économique, les Etats modernes ont longtemps ignoré la destruction des ressources biologiques engendrée par les activités anthropiques. C'est ainsi que certaines espèces ont totalement disparu de la surface de la terre et que d'autres ont vu leur nombre se réduire de façon drastique. Cependant, depuis quelques décennies la communauté internationale a pris conscience des méfaits des désastres écologiques pour les sociétés présentes et les générations futures.

Cette prise de conscience, certes tardive mais salutaire, s'explique aisément lorsque l'on sait les usages multiples que nous faisons des ressources de la diversité biologiques. En effet, nous les utilisons comme aliments, combustibles, matériaux de construction, médicaments, ornement…etc.

A ces usages directs s'ajoute une importante valeur d'utilisation indirecte de la biodiversité. Ainsi les forêts, les zones boisées et la couverture végétale rendent un service inestimable en protégeant les nappes phréatiques, en réduisant l'érosion et en évitant la perte de la fertilité des sols.

De même les forêts, dans le milieu terrestre et les coraux dans le milieu marin jouent un important rôle dans la lutte contre les changements climatiques en absorbant les gaz à effet de serre.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

La prise de conscience de la nécessité de la conservation de la diversité biologique a atteint son apogée à la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement et le Développement qui s'est tenue à Rio de Janeiro en 1992 et où la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique a été ouverte à la signature. La République de Djibouti n'est pas restée à l'écart de ce mouvement. Elle a donc ratifié la Convention le 27 août 1995 et s'est attelée à compléter par la ratification de toutes les conventions et accords relatifs à la conservation et à la gestion des ressources naturelles.

A cet effet, la République de Djibouti a ratifié l'Accord sur la conservation des Oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie et la Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage, le 6 décembre 2003.

Aussi, et en dépit de sa superficie réduite et de la rigueur de son climat de type Sahélo-sahérien, la République de Djibouti possédait une richesse biologique non négligeable. Ainsi 826 espèces de plantes et 1417 espèces d'animaux ont été recensées. Le pays dispose également des écosystèmes terrestres et marins appréciables : la forêt primaire de Day, des zones humides, des récifs coralliens relativement préservés. Toutefois, des rapports sur la diversité biologique en général révèlent que des menaces multiples pèsent sur cette richesse naturelle.

Pour ce faire, des textes règlementaires de gestion et de protection de la diversité biologique ont été réparés puis adoptés par le Gouvernement. A titre d'exemple. Nous pourrions citer, la loi n°45/AN/045ième L portant création des Aires Protégées Terrestres et Marines du 27 mars 2004 et le décret n°2004-0065/PR/MHUEAT portant protection de la biodiversité du 22 avril 2004.

Ces instruments juridiques se veulent des outils efficaces qui apportent des solutions adéquates pour réduire les menaces qui pèsent sur la diversité biologique. Or dans la mise en œuvre de ces outils de gestion et de protection des ressources naturelles, le Gouvernement est confronté à un obstacle de taille : le manque de ressources financières et la faiblesse des capacités nationales.

Mesdames et Messieurs

La volonté des pays en voie de développement d'œuvrer pour la conservation de la diversité biologique en général et des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs en particulier, est sans cesse contrariée par le manque de moyens financiers. A ce sujet, il serait souhaitable que la procédure du Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial et de ces agences d'exécution soit harmonisée et simplifiée afin de faciliter l'accès au financement pour les pays les plus pauvres. Il serait également souhaitable d'identifier d'autres sources

de financement pour renforcer la mise en œuvre de l'Accord sur la Conservation des Oiseaux d'Eau Migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie.

Enfin je profite de l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour lancer un appel aux pays développés afin qu'ils nous apportent le soutien financier et technique dont nous avons besoin pour préserver les ressources naturelles qui constituent le patrimoine commun de l'humanité.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

THE 3RD SESSION OF THE MEETING OF PARTIES TO AFRICAN-EURASIAN WATERBIRD AGREEMENT (AEWA), DAKAR, SENEGAL, 23 - 27 OCTOBER 2005

STATEMENT FROM GHANA

The Government of Ghana was among the representatives of Range State Governments and other organizations who signed the Final Act of the Negotiation Meeting to adopt the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) at The Hague in June 1995.

As Party to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), from which the AEWA Agreement originated and other biodiversity-related Conventions, the Government of Ghana is delighted to have formally joined other Parties to protect migratory waterbirds under the protocols of the AEWA Agreement

Ghana now has identified 36 Important Bird Areas (IBAs), covering an area of 11,494.5 km^2 or 4.8% of the country's total land area. Thirty-four of these IBAs come under one conservation status or the other as Forest Reserves, Wildlife Protected Areas, Community Wildlife Sanctuaries and Ramsar Sites.

These areas demonstrate Ghana's strong commitment to the pursuance of pragmatic measures to fulfil her obligations under the AEWA. The current pressure on land in Ghana makes the establishment of new nature reserves very challenging. Ghana will therefore strengthen protection of wildlife through the introduction of innovative wildlife conservation strategies including community participation and provide legal backing for the enforcement of the AEWA principles and obligations.

Whiles doing this, Ghana will continue to seek international cooperation, particularly with AEWA NGO partners, in the field of training and capacity building to address issues related species and habitat conservation, research and monitoring, education and information management.

Thank you.

Opening statement – AEWA MOP3
Republic of Lebanon
Ministry of Environment

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Republic of Senegal for hosting AEWA MOP3 meeting and the AEWA Secretariat for the excellent arrangements of the conference.

Lebanon lies along one of the major flyways (African-Eurasian) of migrating birds in the world and as such special care should be given by the local and international communities to ensure a safe journey for traveling birds.

The Ministry of Environment has shown a strong commitment to this matter by pushing forward the issuance of a framework law for the regulation of hunting as well as the framework law for the protection of the environment, by establishing partnerships with specialized organizations and providing full support and endorsement for the development of projects that tackle the obstacles facing migratory birds.

These obstacles are many; they range from the mind-sets of local societies which still consider hunting as a sign of manhood to the gap in national capacities in terms of research and conservation of birds and their habitats as well as in the enforcement of international and national legal instruments.

Furthermore, decision makers are still driven by economic and social development at the expense of the protection and conservation of environment. This has led the Ministry of Environment to find creative ways to mainstream the conservation efforts into different sectors. This has also shed the light on the necessity to raise the economic and social values of birds as well as the ecological services of their habitats.

However, many steps have been taken at the national level that will act as strong leverage points to move forward with the implementation of the full action plan. These steps fall under projects co-financed by the Ministry of Environment and international organizations. The projects deal with the protection of species and habitats of importance to those species.

In 2005 and under the hospices of the Ministry of Environment 1,000 persons from local communities attended the 10th anniversary of AEWA. Through our participation at this meeting, we would like to convey their thanks as well as ours to the Secretariat of AEWA for all their efforts and we invite them to sustain and increase them in servicing the parties to the Agreement.

Birds do not recognize human set boundaries and are not concerned by local GDP's. That is why international support for their protection should not be proportional to economic returns but rather to the ecological importance of the country and the extent of threats.

Finally, we strongly recommend and support all efforts of coordination among the different conventions to enhance the focus and efficiency of our common efforts.

STATEMENTS OF NON-PARTY RANGE STATES

MINISTERE DES EAUX ET FORETS

MINISTERE D'ETAT, MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

REPUBLIQUE DE COTE D'IVOIRE
Union – Discipline - Travail

RAPPORT ORAL DE LA DELEGATION DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE COTE D'IVOIRE (MOP3)

La Côte d'Ivoire est située en Afrique de l'ouest, elle est limitée au nord par le Burkina Faso et le Mali, à l'Est par le Ghana, à l'ouest par le Liberia, au nord-ouest par la Guinée et au sud par l'océan atlantique. Elle dispose d'une façade marine de 550 kilomètres de long et de plusieurs Zones Humides à l'intérieur du pays que parcourent de nombreuses espèces d'oiseaux d'eau migratrices parmi lesquelles on peut citer la cigogne noire (Ciconia nigra), la cigogne blanche (Ciconia ciconia), la cigogne épiscopale (Ciconia episcopus), les canards hartlaub (Pteronetta harlaubii) etc.

Le gouvernement ivoirien dans le souci de mieux assurer la protection et la conservation des espèces couvertes par l'Accord, ainsi que des zones importantes qui les abritent, a procédé à l'adoption de plusieurs mesures dont certaines sont de nature juridiques notamment :

- L'adoption de la loi n° 94-442 du 16 août 1994 portant modification de la loi n°65-255 du 04 août 1965 relative à la protection de la faune et à l'exercice de la chasse,
- La création d'un comité national des Zones humides RAMSAR dénommé (CONARAMS) par l'arrêté n° 00336 MINEF/CAB du 19 avril 2004,
- La création d'un comité de pilotage du projet G.E.L « Gestion de l'Environnement Littoral » par l'arrêté n° 3526 MECV du décembre 2001,
- L'élaboration d'un code de l'environnement par la loi n° 96-766 du 03 octobre 1996 portant code de l'environnement,
- L'élaboration et mise en œuvre de plan d'aménagement des sites Ramsar d'importance internationale et des sites importants pour les oiseaux d'eau.

La Côte d'Ivoire a aussi procédé à un examen stratégique des sites en vue de mettre en place un réseau national de sites ou espaces importants pour les espèces couvertes par l'Accord.
Se sont :

- la zone humide du Parc National d'Azagny
- la zone humide du Parc national des îles Ehotilés
- la zone humide de Sassandra-Dagbégo
- la zone humide de Fresco
- la zone humide de Grand-Bassam
- la zone humide de N'ganda n'Ganda

Cette liste n'est pas exhaustive ; elle prend seulement en compte les sites d'importance internationale inscrits sur la liste de la Convention Ramsar.

Aujourd'hui, les grandes lignes des priorités pour la mise en œuvre du plan d'action de l'AEWA au niveau national pour les années à venir sont :

- La ratification de l'Accord sur les oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie,

- L'inscription de nouveaux sites Ramsar,
- La proposition de politique de gestion durable des sites Ramsar,
- L'élaboration de la stratégie de gestion durable des Zones humides de la Côte d'Ivoire,
- L'élaboration d'un plan d'aménagement et de gestion des Zones humides,
- L'inventaire de la faune aviaire de ces sites,
- La mise en œuvre du plan d'action du CONARAMS (Comité National Ramsar),
- La poursuite de l'inscription des sites d'importance nationale et internationale d'oiseaux d'eau migrateurs,
- La communication, l'éducation et la sensibilisation du public sur l'utilisation durable des habitats des oiseaux d'eau et la protection des oiseaux d'eaux migrateurs,
- La contribution au réseau des Zones humides d'Afrique de l'ouest et d'Afrique francophone,
- La participation aux ateliers de renforcement des capacités organisés à l'attention des gestionnaires des Zones humides par les partenaires de Ramsar et l'AEWA (Wetlands International, WWF, BirdLife International, etc.),
- La poursuite de l'alimentation des bases de données sur les oiseaux d'eau de Wetlands,
- Le renforcement du partenariat avec le Secrétariat de l'AEWA à travers une meilleure implication de ce Secrétariat dans les activités de conservation des oiseaux d'eau en Côte d'Ivoire dans leur habitat.

Pour ce qui concerne la ratification de l'Accord sur les oiseaux d'eau migrateurs, le projet de loi a été déjà adopté en conseil des ministres et attend d'être voté à l'assemblée nationale, avant sa promulgation par le Président de la République pour ainsi être transmis aux autorités AEWA.

Mesdames, Messieurs, voici de façon succincte les progrès réalisés en ce qui concerne l'accession et la ratification à l'AEWA par le gouvernement de la République de la COTE D'IVOIRE.

3ième session de la Réunion des Parties Contractantes à l'Accord sur la Conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie (AEWA)
23-27 octobre 2005, Dakar, Sénégal

DECLARATION DE MADAGASCAR

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Monsieur le Président

Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs de délégation

Mesdames et Messieurs les participants,

Madagascar s'honore de prendre part, pour la première fois, à la réunion des Parties Contractantes de l'Accord sur la Conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie (AEWA). Aussi, au nom du Gouvernement malgache et au nom de la délégation que je dirige, permettez-moi d'exprimer notre pleine reconnaissance à l'endroit du Secrétariat du PNUE/AEWA de nous avoir invité à participer à cette rencontre. Au peuple sénégalais et ses dirigeants, nous faisons part de nos appréciations de leur généreuse hospitalité.

Hommage appuyé est, par ailleurs, rendu à Monsieur le Secrétaire exécutif de l'AEWA, pour sa présence appréciée à l'atelier d'information et de promotion sur l'AEWA et la CMS organisé à Madagascar le 12 mai 2005. Cet atelier, qui a pu se tenir, grâce au financement de l'AEWA, nous a permis de prendre davantage conscience de l'importance de l'Accord sur la Conservation des oiseaux migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie. Le processus de ratification de ce dernier est en cours et nous espérons y parvenir avant la fin de cette année.

Quatrième plus grande île mondiale, de par sa superficie de 586 760 km², Madagascar, se distingue par sa biodiversité unique et exceptionnelle, ainsi que par la diversité de ses écosystèmes. Elle est classée parmi les 10 premiers sites mondiaux et l'on y recense 359 espèces d'oiseaux, dont 55 % endémiques. Madagascar est, par ailleurs, classée parmi les 04 régions « Hotspot » par Conservation International, en raison de sa richesse en biodiversité mais aussi de sa grande vulnérabilité.

La grande île est, en effet, confrontée à de préoccupants problèmes : Effritement de la végétation originelle, exacerbé par les pratiques de cultures sur brûlis, transformation des zones humides en riziculture et en bassins d'aquaculture, exploitation non contrôlée des ressources biologique terrestres et aquatiques. La pollution et les catastrophes naturelles (cyclones, inondations) contribuent, dans une large mesure, à l'appauvrissement de certaines niches écologiques et l'on estime actuellement le coût annuel de la dégradation de l'environnement aux environs de 10 millions de dollars.

En égard à ces préoccupations, la priorité a, de plus en plus, été accordée aux actions de conservation de développement durable. Ces actions s'insèrent dans le cadre du Plan d'Action Environnemental, et du programme Environnemental, actuellement à sa phase III.

Madagascar a, auparavant, déjà adhéré à diverses Conventions Internationales, notamment la Convention CITES, la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique, la Convention sur la Désertification, la Convention sur les Changements climatiques, la Convention de Ramsar, la Convention du Patrimoine Mondial, la Convention de Vienne.

Au plan national, des réformes institutionnelles ont été réalisées, des stratégies nationales élaborées et mises en œuvre. La surface des aires protégées a triplé en 5 ans. Le gouvernement a prévu, entre autres, d'allouer 8 % du montant dégagé de l'annulation des dettes externes au financement des actions environnementales. Concernant plus particulièrement, la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs, des recherches portant sur le dénombrement des oiseaux d'eau ont été réalisées par The Peregrine Fund, BirdLife International Madagascar (BIMP) et la Ligue Malgache pour la conservation des oiseaux à Madagscar (ASITY). Un projet portant sur les Zones d'Importance pour la conservation des oiseaux à Madagascar (ZICOMA) a été entrepris en 1999, en partenariat entre le Ministère des Eaux et Forêts, l'Association Nationale pour la Gestion des Aires Protégées (ANGAP) et BirdLife International, grâce à un financement de l'Union Européenne. Malheureusement, les moyens matériels et financiers limités, associés à l'insuffisance de coordination des activités au niveau national, n'ont pas permis de couvrir la totalité des zones humides potentielles.

Madagascar, à l'instar de tous les pays contractants de l'AEWA, est plus que soucieux de mieux gérer le patrimoine exceptionnel, que constituent les oiseaux d'eau migrateurs. Nous souscrivons pleinement aux recommandations de la Conférence sur les oiseaux du monde ainsi qu'à l'élaboration d'un plan stratégique pour l'Accord. En contribution à nos présentes réflexions, nous estimons essentielle l'implication des gouvernements à la mise en œuvre des actions, aux côtés des organisations internationales, des ONG, du secteur privé, des collectivités locales.

Etant donné l'insuffisance des actions au niveau du continent africain. Nous suggérons d'accorder plus d'attention aux études des voies de migration intra africaines. Nous suggérons la définition de stratégies et de plans d'actions pour la conservation des habitats des oiseaux d'eau en Afrique, le renforcement des techniques de restauration et de réhabilitation de ces habitats, la mise en place d'une stratégie de communication adéquate.

De même, nous estimons important le renforcement des cadres législatifs nationaux, régionaux et internationaux en matière de recensement, de protection, de surveillance, d'étude, de gestion de la voie de migration, de conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs. La mise à jour de l'état et tendances des zones humides mérite de se faire systématiquement, et l'accent mis sur le renforcement des capacités.

Face à l'épidémie de la grippe aviaire qui interpelle actuellement toute la communauté internationale, nous estimons urgent de se pencher sur les risques de maladie par les oiseaux d'eau migrateurs et leur implication sur la santé humaine. Il s'avère indispensable d'intensifier les initiatives de suivi, les recherches sur la transmission de la maladie, la mise en place de méthodes de diagnostic améliorées.

Enfin, solidaire aux efforts inlassables de l'AEWA, et consciente de ses importantes missions pour la Conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs, Madagascar soumet à la présente réunion sa proposition d'accueillir la quatrième session de la Réunion des Parties qui se tiendra en 2008.

Je vous remercie.

Opening Statement
of the
Russian Federation
At the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP3)

The Russian delegation expresses sincere gratitude to the AEWA Secretariat and the Government of the Republic of Senegal for the excellent opportunity to take part at the Third Meeting of the Parties. Three years that have passed from the previous Meeting in Bonn became very fruitful and successful for the implementation of the Agreement goals. Marked progress in the development of individual Action Plans was of special consequence to Russia because some of them are devoted to species breeding at the country's territory.

Russia is a most important region of Northern Eurasia that provides nesting and moulting grounds for waterbirds. Every year, not less than 70 million waterbirds that stayed within the Russian boundaries during the breeding season, a critical stage of their life cycle, fly to western and southern countries for the winter.

Protection of waterbirds is possible only by joint efforts of all countries where birds spend at least part of their life cycle. With this in mind, the Russian delegation recognizes the role of AEWA for the strengthening and coordination of international efforts within the Afro-Eurasian region for the protection and sustainable use of waterbirds. In this context, Russia continues to study the possibility to join the Agreement in the future.

Also, the Russian Side would like to stress the necessity of developing international cooperation in the Central-Asian Flyway region in compliance with the decisions of the 'Meeting to conclude and endorse the proposed Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats', New Delhi, June 10-13, 2005.

The Russian delegation once again sincerely thanks the organizers for the hospitality and expresses confidence in the successful and fruitful work of this Meeting.

STATEMENTS OF OBSERVER ORGANISATIONS

Troisième Session de la Réunion des Parties contractantes à l'Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie (AEWA)
23-27 octobre 2005, Dakar, Sénégal

Déclaration liminaire de la Convention sur les Espèces Migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage (CMS),

par Lahcen El Kabiri, Secrétaire exécutif adjoint

J'ai l'immense plaisir de représenter la CMS à cette troisième réunion des Parties à l'AEWA, dont le programme riche et varié, traite des questions pertinentes pour la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs, espèces-clés pour la biodiversité et la coopération internationales.

Cette Session sera, je n'en doute pas fructueuse grâce à l'effort de tous, comme l'ont été les précédentes réunions qui ont permis de consolider les assises de cet Accord, établi à peine il y a dix ans au titre de l'Article 4(3) de la Convention mère (CMS), et qui a pu rallier de nombreuses Parties en se développant en harmonie avec les Parties contractantes, la CMS, RAMSAR et les différentes ONG et Institutions gouvernementales et non gouvernementales.

Certes, la tâche n'est pas facile, mais elle est rendue aisée grâce au renforcement du Secrétariat et à l'appui toujours apporté par la CMS, notamment sur le plan administratif et sur une meilleure intégration dans le nouveau concept de "Famille de la CMS" qui se construit en permanence par les Secrétariat de la CMS et des Accords AEWA, ASCOBANS, EUROBATS et du Mémorandum IOSEA sur les tortues marines de l'Asie du Sud-Est.

La CMS continuera à contribuer à cet effort, conformément aux intérêts de la conservation des espèces migratrices, tels que stipulés dans le texte de la Convention et tracés par les différentes Conférences des Parties.

Cela nécessite, d'une part la mobilisation de moyens financiers importants, que la CMS est en train d'améliorer par différentes mesures associant également l'AEWA et les autres Accords, ainsi qu'une politique de conservation et de développement durable clairvoyante, d'autre part.

Concernant les questions africaines, il m'est également agréable d'annoncer plusieurs initiatives importantes entreprises récemment par la CMS, dont notamment:

(1) la mise en oeuvre du Mémorandum d'Accord (MdA) sur la conservation des tortues marines de la côte atlantique de l'Afrique, grâce à un partenariat entre la CMS et le Secrétariat du Volet Environnement du NEPAD (SINEPAD/Env.) soutenu par le PNUE (Division des Conventions Multilatérales sur l'Environnement) et le Bureau Régional de l'Environnement pour l'Afrique. Le Mémorandum d'Entente entre la CMS et le SINEPAD/Env. sera signé à l'occasion de la présente Session de la réunion des Parties à l'AEWA;

(2) la signature du MdA sur la conservation de l'Eléphant d'Afrique qui interviendra durant la huitième Conférence des Parties à Nairobi en novembre prochain;

(3) le renforcement du Projet ASS-CMS/FFEM sur la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'Action sur la conservation des antilopes sahélo sahariennes, par le lancement d'un Partenariat selon les prescriptions du "Sommet Mondial sur le Développement Durable" de Johannesburg (2002) à la huitième Conférence des Parties.

Toutes ces questions d'intérêt général pour la Convention mère CMS, seront traitées durant sa huitième Conférence des Parties, qui se tiendra à Nairobi, Kenya, du 20 au 25 novembre prochains, en tant que contribution à la cible de 2010 sur la réduction de la perte de biodiversité, conformément au nouveau Plan Stratégique de la Convention.

Opening statement by BirdLife International

In welcoming delegates to MOP3, BirdLife International offers the following analysis of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, presented in terms of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

STRENGTHS: a growing number of Contracting Parties along the flyways, with good prospects of attracting still more. Excellent cooperation between the interests of conservation and sustainable use. Strong and active Technical and Standing Committees. A hardworking Secretariat, now up to strength, and with plans for finding additional manpower cost-effectively.

WEAKNESSES: a poor record of national reporting, preventing a clear and realistic picture of how AEWA is doing. Slow progress on issues of great importance, particularly on the phasing out of lead shot in wetlands. Too few species action plans produced, and inadequate implementation of existing plans at the national level. Not enough sites of importance for migratory waterbirds are receiving the level and quality of management they need.

OPPORTUNITIES: the UNEP-GEF Flyway Project provides us with a chance to make significant progress with a dozen of our clearly-identified Implementation Priorities, ranging from identifying key sites to regional training programmes, and from the creation of an interactive management tool to the publication of field guides. At MOP3, we have the chance to ensure the timely publication of data sets vital for our work, by agreeing to join an international partnership that will ensure a funding regime for the International Waterbird Census and Waterbird Population Estimates.

THREATS: without an adequate, preferably generous, budget, new and promising work, for instance on climate change, will be curtailed. At all costs, we must not tie up Parties and others in unnecessary bureaucracy, and must keep the Agreement in touch with what is happening, and needs to happen, in the places where waterbirds live, and where they interact with local people.

BirdLife International wishes the Meeting every success in its vital work. We plan to continue to play an active role here in Dakar, and in the coming triennium.