



AEWA Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators in Africa

Terms of Reference

as adopted by AEWA MOP7 (December 2018, South Africa)

Background and mandate

The concept of AEWA Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators (SRFPCs) for Africa was established by the 5th Meeting of the Parties to AEWA through Resolution 5.9 on the Implementation of the AEWA African Initiative for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats in Africa. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the roles, responsibilities and functioning of SRFPCs was adopted by the 9th Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee (September 2013 in Trondheim, Norway). The current revised Terms of Reference aim to harmonize and align the roles and responsibilities of the AEWA SRFPCs in Africa with those of the African regional representatives on the AEWA Standing Committee, in order to streamline and improve the efficiency of both coordination mechanisms.

Purpose

The main purpose of the AEWA SRFPCs in Africa is to guide implementation of the Agreement at the sub-regional level, as well as instigate and motivate action, and provide advice for implementation.

Representation/membership

A maximum of five SRFPCs will be nominated from the African region, based on the principle of sub-regional balance. As such, there shall be one SRFPC each from Northern, Eastern, Southern, Western and Central Africa.

The nominated AEWA Standing Committee regional representatives for Africa shall, by default, assume the role of SRFPC for their given sub-regions.

For the other sub-regions with no Party representative nominated to the AEWA Standing Committee, the officially designated AEWA National Focal Points shall nominate a SRFPC from among themselves and communicate the nomination to the AEWA Secretariat and the other AEWA Parties. The nomination of alternate SRFPCs shall be optional and shall follow the same principles as the nomination of the principal SRFPCs, with the alternate regional representatives on the AEWA Standing Committee assuming the role of alternate SRFPCs by default, where applicable.

The nomination of the SRFPCs shall be reviewed during each ordinary session of the AEWA Meeting of the Parties (MOP), in line with the approved institutional arrangements for the AEWA Standing Committee. However, the maximum term of office of SRFPCs shall expire at the close of the second ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties following the session at which they were originally nominated.

Responsibility

The SRFPCs will play an advisory, motivating and guiding role for promoting the implementation of the AEWA African Initiative, including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA) at the level of their respective sub-regions, through the following:

- Act as a central point of contact linking the AEWA National Focal Points in the respective sub-region with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and other key partners at the international and regional levels (for example, the Technical Support Unit or the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership), to provide guidance, advise

and information during the planning, development and implementation of activities aimed at implementing the AEWA PoAA at the sub-regional and flyway levels;

- Engage actively in the implementation and reporting of AEWA-related activities conducted at the sub-regional and flyway level as well as encourage the engagement of the AEWA National Focal Points and other relevant stakeholders in the respective sub-regions, to facilitating access to relevant waterbird-related data and information;
- Liaise with the AEWA National Focal Points in the respective sub-regions to identify priorities for the sub-region and/or flyway as relevant and provide feedback, guidance and advise for the implementation of activities applicable to the sub-region, and which are coordinated and/or led by the AEWA Secretariat, Technical Support Unit and/or other AEWA partners involved in supporting the implementation of the AEWA PoAA;
- Promote the implementation and reporting of activities in the AEWA PoAA by the Range States within their respective sub-regions;
- Mobilize, stimulate and coordinate AEWA National Focal Points in the sub-region to establish collaborative arrangements between Parties, with the aim to promote joint activities, projects or programmes that contribute to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats at transboundary, sub-regional or flyway scale;
- Support with the identification of relevant frameworks, forums and events in the sub-region and coordinate the representation of the Agreement by the AEWA National Focal Points at these events, within possible means;
- Promote the recognition of AEWA priorities in the framework of regional economic communities in the African region;
- Liaise with AEWA Ranges States of the sub-region that are not yet Contracting Parties to AEWA, to promote accession;
- Liaise with the National Focal Points of the sub-region to promote and coordinate the collation and sharing of information on AEWA relevant activities conducted at the sub-regional level;
- Ensure the full support of their respective Governments and/or host institutions in order to enable them to execute the above responsibilities (including ensuring their availability for attending relevant meetings¹, as applicable, in relation to executing their roles and responsibilities.

Communication

The AEWA SRFPCs shall communicate with the National Focal Points of their sub-region through various means as appropriate, including through the use of the existing sub-regional group email addresses, virtual meetings (for example, Skype meetings) or meeting in the framework of other forums.

SRFPCs should preferably have the necessary language skills to ensure effective communication with the AEWA National Focal Points in their respective sub-regions.

¹ General rules and criteria for eligibility to travel support as defined by the Meeting of the Parties will be applicable to Sub-Regional National Focal Point Coordinators when attending AEWA meetings in their coordinator capacity.