



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## Meeting to Negotiate the Legal and Institutional Framework for the Central Asian Flyway for Migratory Waterbirds

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 12 December 2012

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### Final Declaration

Representatives of Governments of Range States of the Central Asian Flyway for Migratory Waterbirds, together with representatives of non-governmental and international organizations, observers and experts,

*Concerned* that the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) covers many globally threatened and near-threatened migratory waterbird species and that their populations and many of the wetlands, grasslands and other habitats upon which they depend are in a profoundly unsatisfactory state of conservation;

*Acknowledging* that the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) had already convened two meetings of Range States (Tashkent 2001, New Delhi, 2005), with technical and logistical support from Wetlands International, *inter alia* to provide an overview on major conservation issues along the flyway, to prioritize selected implementation activities and to endorse the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats (CAF Waterbird Action Plan);

*Recalling* that Resolution 9.2 on priorities on agreements, adopted by the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CMS, appeals to all Range States for a sustained commitment, both in terms of conservation interest and the provision of resources, in order to implement effectively the above-mentioned CAF Waterbird Action Plan, and requests the Secretariat to collaborate closely with the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) using all available synergies;

*Noting* Resolution 10.10 on global flyway conservation, adopted by the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CMS, reiterating the need to build on existing achievements, in particular the CAF Waterbird Action Plan and the Western/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane and Other Migratory Waterbirds, and the need to consider aligning these with existing agreements and using synergies with AEWA;

*Further noting* that CMS Resolution 10.9 on future structure and strategies of the CMS and CMS Family calls for actions to prioritize the growth of the CMS Family and requests the CMS Secretariat to seek opportunities to develop synergistic relationships either based on geography or species clustering;

*Conscious* of the urgent need for science-based and internationally co-ordinated conservation measures and an effective institutional framework of cooperation to ensure the survival of waterbird species and their habitats as well as to provide sustainable benefits to people;

*Recognizing* existing national measures and that the effectiveness of such measures can be enhanced by international co-ordination and co-operation;

*Having considered* the different options for a legal and institutional framework to support the implementation of the CAF Waterbird Action Plan, as proposed by the CMS Secretariat;

HEREBY

*Decide* that the preferred way forward to ensure the effective implementation of the CAF Waterbird Action Plan is through its incorporation into AEWA and the expansion of the geographical area of the Agreement to encompass the entire CAF region;

*Request* the Contracting Parties to AEWA to consider, at the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to be held in 2015, the extension of the AEWA geographical area to encompass the entire CAF region and the incorporation of the CAF Waterbird Action Plan under the Agreement;

*Request* the AEWA Standing Committee, in close collaboration with the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, to consider how to take forward this matter with the view to presenting a proposal to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties for decision;

*Urge* CAF Range States as well as CMS Parties and other donors to provide the financial and other resources necessary to realize this preferred institutional and legal framework to implement the CAF Action Plan for the conservation of migratory waterbirds;

*Encourage* CAF Range States to accede to AEWA, where possible prior to the 6th Meeting of the Parties to AEWA.

The following CAF Range States were represented at the meeting:

Afghanistan, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.

The AEWA Secretariat, the Chair of the AEWA Standing Committee, the Vice-Chair of the CMS Scientific Council, the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Raptors MOU, the Chair of the CMS Working Group on Flyways and Wetlands International, and BirdLife International were also present.

Done in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on the 12th day of December, 2012

*Confirming the correct wording of the meeting's Final Declaration:*



Mr. David Stroud  
Chair of the Meeting  
United Kingdom



Mr. Bert Lenten  
Officer in Charge  
UNEP/CMS Secretariat