



REPORT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)

Introduction

In 2005 the AEWA will celebrate its 10th Anniversary to mark that on 16 June 1995 the Agreement was concluded in The Hague, The Netherlands. Looking back the Agreement Secretariat is very pleased with what has been achieved during this period. Part of the celebrations foreseen for 2005 is the establishment of the Migratory Waterbird Day (9-10 April 2005) and the launch of the AEWA Award.

This report will brief you on the achievements for 2004.

GENERAL MATTERS

Move of the Agreements' Secretariat

Facing shortage of office space CMS and its co-located Agreements decided that the Agreements would move out Haus Castanjen to the so-called OBS building as of beginning of July 2004. After the move we noted that although this building is just located 2 km's from Haus Castanjen that we lost the day-to-day contact with CMS, which is regrettable.

As of 1 October 2005 all Bonn Based UN agencies with exception of UNFCCC will move to the Langen Eugen, which will be part of the new UN campus in Bonn. The UNEP/ AEWA is very pleased with the room allocation.

Admin Unit

Since beginning of 2005 the CMS Admin Unit is fully staffed. On the advice of the auditors a Service Level Agreement was concluded between CMS and the Agreements to clarify what the Agreement might kind of support the Agreements' Secretariats might expect from the CMS Admin Unit. Later this year evaluation will take place to see if the expectations have come true.

Recruitment of Staff

In 2004 as well the Administrative Assistant and the Technical Officer could be recruited. Unfortunately since passing of the deadline for submission of applications for the post of Executive Secretary being 23 December 2003 no progress has been made in the recruitment for this post. Based on the latest information it is expected that the interview will take place mid of 2005. The Government of Germany has decided to provide the Agreement Secretariat with a Junior Professional Officer. It is expected that this Staff member could enter on duty on 1 October 2005. The Secretariat highly appreciates the support given by the Government of Germany in this respect.

Financial situation

Also the UNEP/ AEWA Secretariat is suffering from the loss of the purchase power of the US Dollar towards the EURO. The total expenditures have increased between 25-40 percent. To avoid these kinds of losses the Agreements' Secretariat will propose to the next MOP, which will take place from 23-27 October 2005 in Dakar, Senegal to adopt the budget in EUROS.

Meetings

In 2004 the Agreement Secretariat organized the 5th Meeting of the Technical Committee (April, Scotland) and also the 2nd meeting of the Standing Committee. (November, Germany). Fruitful discussions were taking place during both well attended meetings. Particular at the StC2 meeting activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary were discussed and agreed upon. Among other thing it was decided to adopt a new logo for the Agreement and to revamp the Agreements' Website.

In close cooperation with ONCFS (France), Wetlands International, CIC and others a Workshop on sustainable hunting in Western Africa was organized. This workshop took place on Ranch Bango near Saint Louis in Senegal. Representative of 10 African countries participated.

Recruitment of Parties

The number of Contracting Parties to AEWA has grown to 49 as of 1 June 2005. It is expected that before end of this year more countries will join.

INFORMATION MAGEMENT

Communication Strategy

SPAN Consultants presented the draft Communication Strategy for the Agreement to the StC2. The document was well received and it was agreed that it could be submitted to MOP3 for formal adoption.

Newsletters

In 2004 the 10th issue of the AEWA Newsletter was compiled. It is expected that it could be published in due course. In addition to the hardcopy version of the AEWA Newsletter work is undertaken to design an electronic Newsletter. Later this year the first issue of E-news will be launch. The idea is to send out every 2 months E-news that will consist of 2 A4 pages.

DVD/ AEWA Film

During the Global Flyway Conference (April 2004, Edinburgh) the first part of the AEWA DVD was launched. In October 2004 the film team visited Senegal to shoot additional footages from the AEWA Workshop on Sustainable Hunting as well as from a number of nature conservation areas. Due to lack of resources no progress since then could be made.

Outreach Material

Due to the generous offer of the Government of Luxembourg divers outreach material could be produced end of 2004/ early 2005. This means that the Agreement Secretariat has no its own pins, stickers, reference CDs, poster, etc. Important to mention is also that an 'Accession Guide' could be

printed in English, French, Arabic and Russian. This guide clarifies which steps have to be undertaken in case a country would like to join AEWA.

COOPERATION OTHER ORGANISATIONS

During the Global Flyway Conference, the Joint Work Programme between the Secretariat of RAMSAR, CMS and AEWA was signed.

PROJECTS

African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project

The project brief for the full-size project was submitted to the GEF Secretariat in October 2003. At the GEF Council meeting, which took place from 19-21 November 2003 in Washington, USA, and the project was approved. Steps are now being taken by Wetlands International to start the implementation of this project as soon as possible. The approval of the project is also a milestone for the Agreement. Both the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and AEWA will benefit greatly from the implementation of this project. The implementation of the full-size project could probably start mid 2005.

International Single Species Action Plans

End of 2004 the following Action Plans were published: Great Snipe; Sociable Lapwing and Black-winged Pratincole.

Under preparation are: Ferruginous Duck, Northern Bald Ibis, Maccoa Duck, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Light-bellied Brent Goose (EACHA population), Corn crake, White-headed Duck and the Dark-bellied Brent Goose. It is expected that most of this Action Plans could be submitted to MOP3 for adoption.

International Implementation Priorities

Good progress could be made in the implementation of the International Implementation Priorities AEWA 2003-2007 (IIP). The following projects have been contracted out:

A number of International Single Species Action Plans as mentioned-above, several surveys of poorly know areas, publication of the Wader Atlas, pilot study/ review of potential from waterbird ringing recovery analyses for the Agreement Area, coordination of ringing schemes particularly in Africa, actions for colonial waterbirds, flyway population catalogue, field guide for Uzbekistan and the development of the communication strategy. Unfortunately it becomes harder and harder to find voluntary contributions for the implementation of IIP.

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