



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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MEETING TO CONCLUDE AND ENDORSE THE
PROPOSED CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION
PLAN TO CONSERVE MIGRATORY
WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS
New Delhi, 10-12 June 2005

**REPORT OF THE MEETING TO CONCLUDE AND ENDORSE THE PROPOSED
CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION PLAN TO CONSERVE MIGRATORY
WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS**

Agenda item 1: Opening Ceremony

1. The meeting was opened with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the dignitaries invited to open the meeting.
2. Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, welcomed the organisers, delegates, guests and members of the media. Being the nodal ministry for conservation and management of India's rich biodiversity, he outlined the special significance that is attached to migratory fauna and efforts made to establish a national network of Ramsar wetland sites of international importance. He expected that this network would grow considerably in the coming years and be complimented by a wider network of wetland protected areas as conservation and community reserves, which will be managed on the principles of wise and sustainable use of resources, without compromising the maintenance of the basic ecological characteristics. The requirement of bilateral arrangements and collaborative management of trans boundary protected areas was also mentioned as well as the bilateral arrangements with Russia and strengthening of the CMS agreements in a mutually beneficial manner.
3. Mr. Douglas Hykle, Senior Advisor, Convention on Migratory Species, addressed the meeting on behalf of Mr. Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary of the Convention. He outlined the importance that CMS placed on this meeting and for the development of an Action Plan that reflected the needs of the Range States and of a legal framework to support its implementation. He welcomed the delegates from 23 Range States of the Central Asian Flyway, international organisations and other participants (The final list of participants appears at Annex 1). He thanked the Government of India for taking the lead and initiative in organising the meeting and for providing financial and logistical support. He thanked, too, the Governments of Netherlands and Switzerland, UNEP offices in Asia-Pacific, West Asia, and Europe and the International Crane Foundation for providing financial support for the meeting. He also thanked Wetlands International for acting as the Secretariat's technical adviser and for preparing a number of documents for the meeting.

4. Mrs. Désirée Bonis, Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Netherlands Embassy, New Delhi, in her address, referred to the importance that Netherlands placed in flyway conservation and the instrumental role it had played in creating the West Palearctic Flyway which encompasses Europe, North Africa and parts of the Arabian Peninsula. She stated that the Netherlands actively supported the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement action plan and would make similar efforts for the Central Asian Flyway, and made reference to the financial support being made to research in important wetlands and breeding grounds in West Africa and Siberia by the Netherlands government. She particularly highlighted new threats to migratory species, especially birds, such as large-scale windmill parks and climate change, that would need to be considered. She expressed hope that the creation of the new flyway agreement would result in the rehabilitation of the world heritage site of Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary near Bharatpur and the return of the Siberian Cranes and commended the authorities and NGOs involved in the rehabilitation of Chilika Lake, Sultanpur Sanctuary and creation and conservation of Pong Lake.

5. Mr. Ward Hagemeijer, Head of Biodiversity and Ecological Networks, Wetlands International based in the Netherlands, addressed the meeting on behalf of Mrs. Jane Madgwick, Chief Executive Officer, Wetlands International, expressing the organisation's strong commitment to working with CMS, AEW, the Government of India and other Range States and partners in the long term to develop and implement an Action Plan to enhance the conservation of waterbirds and the sites they depend upon with all the values these represent for people and biodiversity. He expressed the hope to obtain from the meeting a clear preference for the future direction of flyway cooperation in the region. The strong and continued support of the Dutch Government to the development of flyway-wide activities in this and other flyways was acknowledged.

6. Mr. Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, acknowledged the need to provide administrative and political support in evolving appropriate strategies for managing water bird populations and stated that this can happen only when all of us join hands to together and work in a spirit of mutual co-operation.

7. The Honourable Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of India, Mr. Thiru A. Raja launched a book entitled "Handbook of Indian Wetland Birds and their Conservation", which had been prepared by the Zoological Survey of India.

8. The meeting was officially inaugurated by Mr. Raja. He welcomed the delegates and invited guests and outlined some of the efforts made by India, including the prospect of setting up a "National Network of Wetland Protected Area," and a "National Wetland Policy" and stated that conservation and management of water birds was a priority under the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) that is supported by the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Mr. Raja informed the meeting that India stood committed to the sustainable use of wetlands and urged the scientific community gathered here to evolve strategies for use of these resources to address the two pronged issues of conservation and the needs of the communities. He called upon the esteemed experts to throw light on the recent reports of migratory birds acting as vectors for the bird flu in China.

9. Mr. R.P.S. Katwal, Additional Director General (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, offered the vote of thanks to all the delegates, the organisers for their participation in the meeting and to the media for their contribution in taking the message of the meeting to the masses.

Agenda item 2: Election of officers

10. The meeting elected by acclamation Mr. R.P.S Katwal (India) to chair the meeting.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the agenda and meeting schedule

11. The meeting accepted the Chair's proposal that it operate without formal written rules of procedure.

12. The Chair invited the CMS Agreements Officer, Mr. Lyle Glowka, to introduce the provisional agenda (document CMS/CAF/1/Rev.2) and provisional annotated agenda (document CMS/CAF/2).

13. The Chair proposed the following adjustments to the meeting schedule to enable a smooth flow of the discussion: (1) agenda item 7.0 (Action Plan finalisation and endorsement) first; (2) then agenda item 8.0 (Proposals to initially support implementation of the Action Plan); and finally (3) agenda item 6.0 (Regional preferences for a legal and institutional framework to support the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for Waterbirds and their Habitats). No additional proposals to amend the agenda or to be addressed under agenda item 10 (Any other business) were proposed by the delegates.

14. The agenda and schedule were adopted without further amendment. The adopted agenda is reproduced as Annex 2 to this report.

Agenda item 4: Meeting overview

15. The Chair invited the CMS Secretariat to introduce the meeting, its aims and objectives.

16. Mr. Glowka outlined the process to develop the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan, through the organisation of a first meeting of Range States in 2001 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where a draft Action Plan was discussed. At this meeting, India offered to take the lead on developing and concluding the Action Plan. In addition, the issue of appropriate legal and institutional mechanisms was initially broached but the 15 Range States at the meeting did not have sufficient information to reach a conclusion. The CMS Secretariat undertook to prepare a more formal presentation outlining possible advantages and disadvantages of the options that had been presented to the meeting. In designing this meeting as a follow up to the Tashkent meeting, CMS had tried to create a comprehensive meeting which would both inform the participants and seek to identify regional needs and preferences. The four primary meeting objectives were to:

- Provide Range State delegations with an overview of flyway conservation issues (technical session) (agenda item 5.0);
- Finalise and endorse the draft CAF Action Plan (agenda item 7.0);
- Consider, prioritise and endorse selected implementation activities (agenda item 8.0) and lay the basis for exploring in the future and possibly establishing an interim coordination mechanism; and
- Recommend a legal and institutional option to support Action Plan implementation (agenda item 6.0).

17. Mr. Glowka introduced the meeting documents list (document CMS/CAF/3). The final list of meeting documents is reproduced as Annex 3 to this report

Agenda item 5: Technical session on flyway issues

18. Mr. Glowka described the rationale of the technical session as to provide the opportunity to (a) review waterbird conservation issues regionally through presentations of experts, (b) review waterbird conservation issues at the national scale through a Country Report synthesis (with individual country reports made available as document CMS/CAF/Inf/4 series) and (c) show how CMS has been trying to assist Range States through various initiatives in the region.

Agenda item 5.1: Issues and priorities for the Central Asian Flyway

19. Mr. Hagemeyer made a presentation entitled “Flyways: Principles and Initiatives”, that provided an overview of the concept of flyways, defined the major flyways of the world and the ongoing flyway-wide initiatives.

20. Dr. Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International, made a presentation entitled “Central Asian Flyway: Main Issues and Opportunities for Cooperation on Migratory Waterbirds and Wetland Conservation.” He provided an overview of the Central Asian Flyway and identified priority issues for conservation of migratory waterbird and their habitats, including the lack of information on population status and trends of waterbirds, information on precise migratory routes of populations, limited capacity of local agencies and groups to monitor and manage wetlands and the need to balance the needs of conservation against the needs of local people living around wetlands.

21. Dr. S. Balachandran, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), made a presentation entitled “A Review of Bird Migration Studies by India and Future Plan of Action”, in which he outlined the main achievements of the BNHS, including the marking of over 250,000 waterbirds at nine major wetlands with 1,800 recoveries, the publication of an Indian Bird Banding Manual to support the training of students and others to increase capacity for bird ringing and study. The results showed that there were changes in migratory patterns observed between 1980-2002 and these were attributed to habitat degradation in key sites and changes in abundance of species across parts of the country. Amongst waders, there was a sharp decline in coastal waders, but the decline of populations was relatively less along the west coast compared to the east coast. Future strategies needed to include research and monitoring, education and training and habitat restoration.

22. Mr. David Li, Wetlands International, made a presentation entitled “Monitoring the Distribution and Status of Waterbirds in the Central Asian Flyway”, in which he described the Asian Waterbird Census as the regional contribution to the global International Waterbird Census (IWC) programme coordinated by Wetlands International. The IWC was being conducted each January across the Range States by nationally coordinated volunteer-based networks. This programme was providing a strong basis to identify important sites for waterbirds, monitoring distribution and status of species. Some of the main challenges identified for the IWC in CAF Range States included inconsistency of site coverage, need for improved national coordination, lack of capacity, lack of support to volunteer networks and inadequate expertise and lack of financial support. A strategic plan had been developed to guide implementation of the work.

23. Dr. Lalitha Vijayan, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), made a presentation entitled “Habitat Inventory for Migratory Waterbirds: Lessons Learned from the UNDP/GEF Indian National Wetlands Project. She described the results of the project, which had carried out detailed inventories of representative inland wetlands across the country, identified species and pollution levels.

24. Mr. Simba Chan, BirdLife International, described his organisation’s Important Bird Area (IBA) programme in a presentation entitled “Site-based Approaches for Management of Internationally Important Migratory Waterbird Sites: The Role of IBAs”. He discussed the value of IBAs in prioritizing site conservation projects and current partial coverage of IBA in the east and south of the CAF region, with proposed coverage in other areas. Also proposed was the establishment of site support groups to enable monitoring of sites with an eventual aim to build up a network, linking important sites in different countries.

25. Dr. Mundkur provided a brief summary of the reports provided by Range States (documents CMS/CAF/Inf.4/1-17) on the current administrative frameworks for migratory waterbirds, current programmes for management, conservation and raising of awareness for migratory waterbirds and their habitats, species of conservation concern and priorities for conservation action. The information had been sought through provision of a set of guidelines (document CMS/CAF/Inf.3/Rev.1).

26. The preliminary analysis of the reports provided before the meeting by 14 of 30 Range States revealed that States either had single or multiple national administrative authorities for waterbird management. The involvement of technical institutions, universities and NGO varied considerably between States. While policy and legislation existed for birds, including waterbirds and habitats, they required improvement/strengthening. There is a wide-range of ongoing international, bilateral, national and local actions for species and habitat management and conservation. Furthermore, the membership in biodiversity-related conventions is strong and increasing. There was a wide-range of threats identified to waterbirds and their habitats, and main priorities included: the need for monitoring of waterbirds, development of action plans for conservation of threatened species, accession to or ratification of conventions/agreements (including CMS, AEWA, Ramsar), establishment of new protected areas/sanctuaries, establishment of a network of sites, establishment of species working groups, information exchange, provision of training on waterbird and wetland management and raising of awareness.

27. The information collected was the first reference of its kind for the flyway and there was a need to solicit reports from the remaining Range States. The need to collate and synthesise the information and to make it widely available and updated periodically was proposed, as one of the priority actions proposed in document CMS/CAF/7 discussed under agenda item 8.

Agenda item 5.2: Existing CMS initiatives within the Central Asian Flyway

28. Mr. Glowka briefly introduced CMS to the participants and stated that the Convention established linkages between migratory species conservation, ecosystems and sustainable development. He outlined selected CMS migratory bird achievements (Globally/CAF), including two GEF Projects that would be further described in subsequent presentations. The Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy and the latest initiative for the CAF region. Document CMS/CAF/Inf.7 provided the text and appendices of the Convention.

29. Mr. Bert Lenten, Executive Secretary, African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), provided an historical overview, and described the Agreement's geographical scope, species coverage, some of its main activities since 1999 and future activities, including the overlap and linkage to the CAF. Document CMS/CAF/Inf.8 provided the text of the Agreement and its Action Plan.

30. Mr. Hagemeyer made a presentation on "Developing a Flyway Scale GEF Project on Conserving Migratory Waterbirds and Wetlands in the African Eurasian Flyway: Applying the Flyway Approach for the Benefit of Biodiversity and People". The major components of the UNEP-GEF African Eurasian Flyways project were highlighted and its strategic importance for building the capacity for conservation and sustainable use and management of waterbird populations and wetlands was demonstrated.

31. Dr. Mundkur described the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy which had been active in promoting the flyway approach and conservation action for migratory waterbirds and their habitats for a decade in the region. Document CMS/CAF/Inf.12 contained the current five year Strategy. The free-standing regional cooperative conservation initiative was coordinated by an international committee with representation from the secretariats of CMS and Ramsar, government agencies, development agencies, NGOs and technical experts. The Strategy had overseen the development of three international site networks for migratory Anatidae, cranes and shorebirds, covering 85 internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in 13 countries in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and was growing slowly. The site networks focused on increasing recognition of the importance of wetlands for waterbirds, raising awareness, building local capacity for management and monitoring of waterbirds, collection of information, as well as other activities.

32. Mr. Crawford Prentice, International Crane Foundation, made a brief presentation entitled "Use of Flagship Migratory Waterbird Species to Promote Wetlands Conservation: The CMS Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane and the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane and Wetlands Project". The UNEP/GEF project is a major programme in Russia, China, Kazakhstan and Iran along the western and eastern flyways to undertake conservation action for the globally threatened Siberian Crane during its annual life cycle, including through the establishment of a network of sites used for breeding, staging and wintering. Document CMS/CAF/Inf.9 provided a background paper on the proposed network.

Agenda item 6: Regional preferences for a legal and institutional framework to support the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for Waterbirds and their Habitats

33. Prior to the consideration of agenda item 6, Mr. B. C. Choudhry, Wildlife Institute of India, on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, provided an overview of the current legislative frameworks, administrative responsibilities and responses for waterbird and wetland conservation in the country. The future strategy and action plan being proposed included identification of all important staging grounds and breeding grounds of water birds and an action plan for protecting those areas, enhancement of conservation and management of Ramsar Sites, establishing a network of wetland protected areas, species specific conservation action plans for important migratory birds, a national bird ringing programme, regional and international cooperation for collaborative waterbird migration study, improving awareness and education programme, and facilitation and development of multilateral & bilateral agreements between neighbouring countries in the region for specific action plans for migratory water birds.

34. Mr. Glowka introduced three options presented in document CMS/CAF/6. The Range States present were invited by Mr. Hykle to provide an indication of their Government's or Ministry's preference to link the Action Plan under discussion either to a legally-binding or non-binding instrument. Of the 23 delegations present, twelve were in a position to express an official view – in most instances reflecting the position of their Ministry, rather than a Government position. It was recognized that the opinions expressed were to be considered preliminary and non-binding, and that they might change after further inter-ministerial consultations. Most of the countries represented had not initiated such consultations with other relevant Ministries prior to the meeting.

35. Delegations expressing an official view were nearly unanimous in their preference for a legally-binding instrument and, of these, there was near unanimity for the Action Plan to be integrated with the existing African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). An informal poll of the remaining delegations also suggested a general tendency in favour of a legally-binding instrument, with the Action Plan linked to AEWA. Three delegations expressed, officially or unofficially, a preference for the Action Plan to be linked to a non-binding memorandum of understanding.

36. While the conclusions of the meeting provide clear guidance for exploring the AEWA-linked option in more depth, it was noted that an official view was still awaited from 18 of the Range States concerned, and most of the others had still to confirm their position on a Government level. The legal, technical and other ramifications of the approach garnering the most support warrant further investigation in the coming months by both the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, as well as detailed consideration by their respective governing bodies when they meet towards the end of 2005.

Agenda item 7: Action Plan finalisation and endorsement

37. Dr. Mundkur introduced document CMS/CAF/5, the proposed CAF Action Plan text that had been updated with input from the Range States at the Tashkent meeting in 2001 and thereafter through correspondence. The format of the Action Plan had been updated to reflect the format and broad content style of the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement Action Plan.

38. Mr. Hykle, proposed four questions to the meeting as an introduction to discussion of the Action Plan. The questions were (a) Does the Action Plan conform to the needs of your country? (b) Does your country have the capacity and the resources to implement the Action Plan? (c) Did you, within your country, consult with other relevant ministries concerning the Action Plan? and (d) How long would ratification of a formal legally binding agreement for the implementation of the Action Plan take in your country? The answers from the participants of the meeting can be characterised as follows (21 countries answered the questions, unless indicated differently):

| Does this AP conform to your country's needs? | Your country's capacity | Your country's resources | Consultation with other relevant ministries in your country | How long would ratification take? |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 71% yes 29% yes but with some (minor) amendments | 76% sufficient 24% cap building needed (some overlap between these categories) | 43% sufficient 38% need external sources 19% inconclusive | 24% has consulted 14% inconclusive Remaining countries did not consult, including countries where this was not appropriate | Average 2.05 years (n=14) |

39. The draft Action Plan was carefully discussed and amended by the meeting. Three working groups were established that dealt with different aspects of the Action Plan: species and population-related issues, threat-related issues and broader issues. Following the break out sessions, the working groups presented the outcomes of their discussions and proposed amendments to the Action Plan were considered.

40. A number of amendments and new action points were introduced during the discussions that were included in the Action Plan. These included the need to:

- (a) Give adequate attention to gender issues while developing and implementing alternative livelihood options to manage wetlands and other habitats important to migratory waterbirds;
- (b) Ensure adequate statutory pollution controls are in place, including those relating to the use of agricultural chemicals, pest control procedures, oil spills and the disposal of waste water, which are in accordance with international norms, for the purpose of minimizing adverse impacts on the populations listed in Table 2;
- (c) Provide the basis for the Range States to cooperate to determine and monitor the impacts of climate change on migratory waterbirds and their habitats and where appropriate respond to any resulting threats;
- (d) Fine tune the use of the word harvesting in relation to hunting in several parts of the Action Plan;
- (e) Include a 'livelihood support activities' section in the Action Plan, with a reference to traditional uses and management practices;
- (f) Monitor disease occurrence in wild waterbirds and, using a multi-disciplinary approach, assess disease risk and implications for human health, in relation to poultry husbandry and trade practices, trade in wild waterbirds and migratory waterbird movements; and
- (g) Develop an outcome-oriented medium-term Flyway Strategic Plan and complimentary National Strategic Plans to implement actions.

The finalised version of the Action Plan is attached as Annex 4.

41. One piece of outstanding information was awaited from the Russian Federation regarding populations of waterbirds to be included in Table 2. It was confirmed that this information would be provided to the CMS Secretariat within 2 months of the meeting's closure (by 12 August 2005).^{*} It was agreed that the Action Plan would be circulated by the CMS Secretariat to the Range States for final review and comment prior to its adoption at a future intergovernmental meeting.

^{*} The information received by 19.09.2005 is reflected in the version of the Action Plan annexed to this report. Additional useful information was received from Iraq and India by the same date.

Agenda item 8: Proposals to initially support implementation of the Action Plan

42. Dr. Mundkur introduced document CMS/CAF/7 that outlined a list of seven priority international project concepts to support and inform implementation of the CAF Action Plan. The meeting reviewed these concepts and strongly supported in the following order of priority the need to implement projects in the CAF region to (a) prepare a directory of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds; (b) develop a monitoring strategy and strengthen capacity for monitoring waterbirds; (c) prepare a flyway status overview of national and international conservation aspects of migratory waterbirds and their habitats as a basis for cooperative conservation action; (d) prepare a flyway overview of the status and trends of waterbird populations to determine future monitoring and conservation priorities; and (e) establish a flyway network of key contacts and collate an international register of waterbird and habitat projects.

43. Three additional priorities were proposed by the meeting, including the development of single species action plans for threatened species, an awareness programme and common framework for inventory of wetlands.

44. There was also agreement on the need to develop a medium-term Flyway Strategic Plan to support implementation of the Action Plan.

45. The CMS and AEWA Secretariats were invited to consider the priorities of the meeting in initiating development of flyway activities to support implementation of the Action Plan. The CMS Secretariat was also invited to further explore with Range States, AEWA and other potential partners, the concept of an interim coordination mechanism to initially support the implementation of the Action Plan, once adopted.

Agenda item 9: Endorsement of meeting outputs

46. Dr. R. B. Lal, Inspector General Forest (WildLife), Ministry of Environment and Forests, India chaired the rest of the meeting on behalf of Mr. Katwal.

47. The draft New Delhi Statement summarizing the outcomes of the meeting was read out by Mr. Glowka. Following a brief discussion, the Statement was accepted. It is attached as Annex 5.

Agenda item 10: Any other business

48. Dr. Lal invited proposals for any other issues to be addressed by the meeting.

49. Mr. Hagemeyer stated that Wetlands International placed great importance on the Central Asian Flyway and the proposed Action Plan and had secured some support for the implementation of selected activities for two years in at least part of the flyway.

50. No other business was considered by the meeting.

Agenda item 11: Closure of the meeting

51. Dr. Lal thanked all the delegates, other participants and CMS. The meeting was closed at approximately 21.30 hrs.



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



MEETING TO CONCLUDE AND ENDORSE THE PROPOSED CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION PLAN TO CONSERVE MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

New Delhi, 10-12 June 2005

CMS/CAF/Report
Annex 1

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Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



MEETING TO CONCLUDE AND ENDORSE THE PROPOSED CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION PLAN TO CONSERVE MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

New Delhi, 10-12 June 2005

CMS/CAF/Report
Annex 2

AGENDA

1. Opening ceremony
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and meeting schedule
4. Meeting overview
5. Technical session on flyway issues
 - 5.1 Issues and priorities for the Central Asian Flyway
 - 5.2 Existing CMS initiatives within the Central Asian Flyway
6. Regional preferences for a legal and institutional framework to support the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for Waterbirds and their Habitats
7. Action Plan finalisation and endorsement
8. Proposals to initially support implementation of the Action Plan
9. Endorsement of meeting outputs
10. Any other business
11. Closure of the meeting



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



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New Delhi, 10-12 June 2005

CMS/CAF/Report
Annex 3

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

| Symbol | Agenda Item(s) | Title of Document |
|---------------------|----------------|---|
| CMS/CAF/1/Rev.2 | 3.0 | Draft Provisional Agenda |
| CMS/CAF/2 | 3.0 | Provisional Annotated Agenda and Meeting Schedule |
| CMS/CAF/3 | 4.0 | List of Documents |
| CMS/CAF/4 | 5.0 | Cancelled |
| CMS/CAF/5 | 6.0-8.0 | Proposed Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats |
| CMS/CAF/6 | 6.0 | A Legal and Institutional Framework to support the Implementation of the Proposed Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats: Options for Consideration |
| CMS/CAF/7 +annexes | 8.0 | Proposals to Initially Support Implementation of the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats: Options for Consideration |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.1 | | Fact Sheet |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.2/Rev.1 | | Pre-registration Form |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.3/Rev.1 | 5.0 | Country Report Guidelines |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4 | 5.0 | Country Reports |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.1 | | Country Report – Armenia |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.2 | | Country Report – Kazakhstan |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.3 | | Country Report – Tajikistan |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.4 | | Country Report – Sri Lanka |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.5 | | Country Report – Kyrgyzstan |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.6 | | Country Report – Turkmenistan |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.7 | | Country Report – Uzbekistan |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.8 | | Country Report – Bangladesh |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.9 | | Country Report – Iran |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.10 | | Country Report - United Arab Emirates |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.11 | | Country Report – Afghanistan |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.12 | | Country Report – Russian Federation |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.13 | | Country Report – India |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.14 | | Country Report – Myanmar |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.15 | | Country Report – China |

| Symbol | Agenda Item(s) | Title of Document |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.16 | | Country Report - Bhutan |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.4.17 | | Country Report - Yemen |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.5/Rev.1 | 6.0 | Report of the Tashkent Meeting on the Central Asian-Indian Flyway (18-20 August 2001) |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.6 | 5.0, 6.0 | Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and Action Plan (2003-2005) |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.7 | | Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - Text and Appendices |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.8 (In-session) | | Provisional List of Participants |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.9 | 8.0 | The Proposed Western/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Cranes (and other waterbirds): Background Paper |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.10 | 5.0, 6.0 | Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (2001-2005) |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.11 | 6.0 | Membership of CAF Range States in Biodiversity-related International Instruments |
| CMS/CAF/Inf.12 | 7.0-8.0 | A Preliminary List of ongoing International Conservation Frameworks and Regional/National Activities that Contribute to Migratory Waterbird and Habitat Conservation in the Central Asian Flyway Region |

S:_WorkingDocs\Species\CentralAsianFlyway\Delhi 2005\Report_Annex3_List of documents.doc



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



MEETING TO CONCLUDE AND ENDORSE THE PROPOSED CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION PLAN TO CONSERVE MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

New Delhi, 10-12 June 2005

CMS/CAF/Report
Annex 4

CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

As finalised by Range States of the Central Asian Flyway
at their second meeting in New Delhi, 10-12 June 2005

Contextual Note on the Central Asian Waterbirds Flyway Action Plan

The Meeting to Conclude and Endorse the Proposed Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats took place in New Delhi, India, from 10-12 June 2005. The New Delhi Meeting was the second official meeting of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) Range States since they first met in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 2001¹, to discuss a draft action plan for the CAF and various legal and institutional options to support an action plan's implementation.

The New Delhi meeting was attended by nearly 100 participants including delegates from 23 of 30 Range States and a number of international and national level non-governmental organisations. CMS organised the meeting, in cooperation with Wetlands International, who also provided technical advice to the CMS Secretariat and in-kind support to the meeting. The Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests hosted the event with organisational support from the Wildlife Institute of India. The Governments of India, the Netherlands and Switzerland, as well as CMS, AEWA, the Global Environment Facility, and the UNEP Regional Offices for West Asia, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe (Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Strategy) provided generous financial contributions.

The meeting had four primary objectives to: (1) provide Range State delegations with an overview of flyway conservation issues; (2) finalise and endorse the draft CAF Action Plan; (3) consider, prioritise and endorse selected implementation activities, and lay the basis for exploring and possibly establishing an interim coordination mechanism; and (4) develop a consensus on their preferred option for a legal and institutional framework for the CAF region.

The outcomes of the meeting were summarised in the New Delhi Meeting Statement annexed to the meeting report.²

The New Delhi meeting finalized the draft Action Plan's text. Wetlands International in consultation with the CMS Secretariat revised the Action Plan to incorporate technical comments received from the Range States following the New Delhi Meeting. The text remains to be officially adopted by the Range States.

In Resolution 8.5 the Eighth Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties welcomed the Action Plan's finalization. It also recognized the need to establish an appropriate legal and institutional framework to support the Action Plan's implementation, and noted the Range State participants' preference at the New Delhi meeting for the Action Plan to be appended to a legally binding instrument, and for this instrument to be the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA).

It is likely that another intergovernmental meeting will be necessary for the Range States to identify a legal and institutional option and to officially adopt the Action Plan text. CMS will explore the options with India, the lead country.

Until a way forward is identified, Range States, interested organizations and experts may wish to draw from the principles and actions reflected in the Action Plan as a basis to prioritise their on-going work to conserve the migratory waterbirds and habitats of the Central Asian Flyway. CMS will also work actively with the Range States, other interested States, international organisations and Wetlands International to support the Action Plan's interim implementation at the flyway level.

CMS Secretariat
1 February 2006

¹ See < www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/caf/pdf/inf_05_Rev1_tashkent_meeting_report.pdf >.

² See < www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/caf/caf_meeting.htm >.

Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats

As finalised by Range States of the Central Asian Flyway
at their second meeting in New Delhi, 10-12 June 2005

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| List of Abbreviations..... | 2 |
| Introduction..... | 3 |
| The Species | 3 |
| The Habitats | 4 |
| The Need for an Action Plan | 4 |
| 1 Scope of Application..... | 6 |
| 2 Species Conservation..... | 6 |
| 2.1 Cooperation..... | 6 |
| 2.2 Legal Measures..... | 6 |
| 2.3 Single Species Action Plans..... | 7 |
| 2.4 Emergency Measures..... | 7 |
| 2.5 Re-establishments | 7 |
| 2.6 Introductions | 8 |
| 3 Habitat Conservation and Management..... | 8 |
| 3.1 Habitat Inventories | 8 |
| 3.2 Conservation and Management of Habitats..... | 8 |
| 3.3 Establishment of CAF Site Network..... | 9 |
| 3.4 Rehabilitation and Restoration..... | 10 |
| 3.5 Climate Change | 10 |
| 4 Management of Human Activities | 10 |
| 4.1 Harvesting/Hunting..... | 10 |
| 4.2 Livelihood Support Activities..... | 11 |
| 4.3 Assessing Impacts of Development Activities | 12 |
| 4.4 Other Human Activities | 12 |
| 4.5 Research and Monitoring..... | 13 |
| 4.6 Training, Education and Public Awareness..... | 14 |
| 5 Implementation..... | 14 |
| References and Suggested Reading | 17 |
| Table 1: Migratory Waterbirds of the Central Asian Flyway Region included in the Action Plan..... | 20 |
| Table 2: Status of Biogeographic Populations of Migratory Waterbirds in the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan | 26 |
| Annex I: Indicative Map of the Central Asian Flyway Region..... | 39 |

List of Abbreviations

| | |
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| AEWA | Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds |
| APMWCS | Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy |
| AWC | Asian Waterbird Census |
| CAF | Central Asian Flyway |
| CAFF | Programme for the Conservation of Arctic Fauna and Flora (CAFF) of the Arctic Council |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| COP | Conference of the Parties of an international convention |
| CMS | Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) |
| IBA | Important Bird Area |
| ICF | International Crane Foundation |
| IWC | International Waterbird Census |
| NDMS | New Delhi Statement on the Meeting to Conclude and Endorse the proposed Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats. New Delhi, 10-12 June 2005 |
| Ramsar | Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitats |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| WI | Wetlands International |
| WWF | World Wide Fund for Nature |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |

Introduction

The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) covers a large continental area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans and the associated island chains. The Flyway³ comprises several important migration routes of waterbirds⁴, most of which extend from the northernmost breeding grounds in Russia (Siberia) to the southernmost non-breeding (wintering) grounds in West and South Asia, the Maldives and the British Indian Ocean Territory. The birds on their annual migration cross the borders of several countries. Geographically the flyway region covers 30 countries of North, Central and South Asia and Trans-Caucasus (Annex I).

There is an overlap between the CAF and the area of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), which was concluded in 1995, at the Hague, The Netherlands. Sixteen out of the 30 countries encompassed by the CAF are located in the AEWA Agreement Area.

The Species

The Central Asian Flyway covers at least 279 migratory⁵ waterbird populations of 182 species, including 29 globally threatened and near-threatened species⁶ that breed, migrate and spend the non-breeding (winter period) within the region (Tables 1 and 2). Species such as the critically endangered Sociable Plover (*Vanellus gregarious*), endangered White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*), vulnerable Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) and Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*), and Barheaded Goose (*Anser indicus*), Ibisbill (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*), and Brownheaded Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*) are completely (or largely) restricted to the Central Asian Flyway region. In addition, the breeding range of some species including the critically endangered Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*), endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*), vulnerable Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*) and Relict Gull (*Larus relictus*), and Blackwinged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*), Caspian Plover (*Charadrius asiaticus*) and Asian Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*) are largely restricted to the region although the non-breeding ranges overlap with adjoining flyways.

Other migratory waterbird species pass through this region on their annual migrations within flyways that connect the northern Central Asian countries with South East Asia and Australasia (the East Asian-Australasian Flyway) and Africa and Europe (the East African Flyway) and the Indian Ocean to the south. These populations will benefit from the actions undertaken in this Action Plan, but are not the focus of the work and are not listed in Table 1.

Of the 182 species covered by the Action Plan, 17 and 103 are included in Appendix I and II respectively of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (Table 1). Besides geographical overlap there is also a substantial overlap in species between CAF and AEWA. Out of the 279 migratory waterbird populations in the CAF, over 50% (145 populations) are covered by AEWA (Table 2).

³ A “flyway” is the total area used by (groups of) populations or species of birds, throughout their annual cycle, including the breeding areas, migration stop-over and non-breeding (wintering) sites. Many of these sites tend to be highly productive and are thus also of importance to non-migratory birds and other biodiversity. In the staging and non-breeding areas of the flyway, the high productivity also enable local people to benefit food, shelter and water.

⁴ “Waterbirds” means those species of birds that are ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, have a range which lies entirely or partly with the Action Plan area and are listed in Table 1. In addition to these groups, there are other birds also dependent on wetlands such as the kingfishers, birds of prey and passerines. These birds benefit from efforts undertaken to conserve waterbirds.

⁵ Migratory populations include species in which the entire population or a significant proportion of the population cyclically and predictably crosses one or more national jurisdictional boundaries. *Based on the text of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Article 1)*. www.cms.int

⁶ Globally threatened status of critically threatened, endangered and vulnerable follow BirdLife International (2004) *Threatened Birds of the World*.

Rapid human population growth and development across the region has dramatically increased pressure on intertidal and freshwater wetlands, grasslands and other habitats which has resulted in their degradation and loss, their pollution and harvest of waterbirds. These pressures have resulted in the decline and local extinctions of waterbird populations. Management and conservation of waterbird populations requires precise and up to date information on populations and their trends. Information on the status and trends of waterbird populations in the CAF area is limited and outdated⁷. Actions to promote collection of data and their analysis at the flyway and national level will provide the basis for improving the knowledge base.

The Habitats

Waterbirds use a wide variety of habitats during their annual cycle, from the arctic tundra, forested wetlands of the temperate taiga, forest-steppe, steppe grasslands, deserts, inland and coastal wetlands, wet and dry agriculture croplands, rivers, floodplain wetlands, marshes, lakes, tanks, ponds, irrigation tanks, sewage and waste treatment farms. This continental flyway comprises extensive large semi-arid habitats with a limited number of wetlands⁸, particularly in the staging areas and different groups of migratory waterbirds appear to overlap considerably in the usage of important sites. The large coastal wetland areas and islands of South Asian countries provide good habitat for many species.

Many of the wetlands are situated in areas with dense human populations where they provide many goods and services to the people but where they are increasingly being lost and degraded due to unsustainable exploitation⁹. Thus the management of these habitats requires coordinated multi-sectoral and participatory planning and implementation to realise the needs of local people and biodiversity conservation.

Many countries along the CAF have developing or transitional economies with only modest allocation of resources for research and conservation and for involvement of local stakeholders in sustainable management of wetlands, grasslands and other habitats. In addition, changes in political systems and instabilities in some countries, and language and other barriers have constrained the development of cooperation between agencies and organisations in all the flyway countries in areas such as information sharing, research and conservation activities.

The Need for an Action Plan

As many waterbird populations are declining and the wetlands, grasslands and other habitats upon which waterbirds depend are seriously threatened along the CAF, there is an urgent need for science-based and internationally co-ordinated conservation measures, ensuring sustainable benefits to people as well as survival of species and habitats. The call for the development of an Action Plan for the Central Asian Flyway has been recognised by various conventions and meetings¹⁰.

⁷ Information on population trends is summarised in the publication *Waterbird Population Estimates* (third edition, Wetlands International 2002).

⁸ "Wetlands" are defined as "areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres". Wetlands "may incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six metres at low tide lying within the wetlands". *Based on the text of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) (Articles 1.1 and 2.1)*. < www.ramsar.org/lib_manual2004e.htm >.

⁹ CBD COP Decision VII/4 (Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems) emphasizes the critical role of inland water biodiversity for sustainable development < www.biodiv.org/decisions/ >.

¹⁰ CMS COP Resolution 5.4 called on Range States to take an active role in developing a conservation initiative for migratory waterbirds in the Central Asian-Indian Flyway. The Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 2001-2005, recommends development and implementation of an action plan for the CAF and establishment of a site network for conservation of migratory waterbirds and internationally important wetlands in the Central Asian Flyway. Edinburgh Declaration from the Global Flyway Conference *Waterbirds around the World* (2004) called for the establishment of an international framework and further

The Action Plan sets the agenda for enhanced regional environmental cooperation among the Central Asian Flyway states to promote the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. The Action Plan builds on and complements actions that are being undertaken by national governments to promote conservation. In addition, it builds on and complements programmes and actions that are being undertaken by various international conventions (including CMS, AEWA, Ramsar and CBD)¹¹, development agencies (including UNEP, UNDP, World Bank and Asian Development Bank) and international NGOs (including BirdLife International, International Crane Foundation (ICF), World Conservation Union (IUCN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Wetlands International to promote regional and national cooperation and conservation action¹².

development of an information base to promote migratory waterbird conservation in the Central Asian Flyway < www.wetlands.org/gfc >.

¹¹ For a list of CAF Range States and their membership in these agreements, see document CMS/CAF/Inf.11. < www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/caf >

¹² For a preliminary list of regional and national activities that contribute to migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in the CAF region, see document CMS/CAF/Inf.12. < www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/caf >

1 Scope of Application

- 1.1 The Action Plan is applicable to the populations of migratory waterbirds listed in Table 2. Any reference to this Action Plan includes a reference to Table 2.

2 Species Conservation

2.1 Cooperation

- 2.1.1 Range States shall cooperate with relevant international conventions and agreements including the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitats (Ramsar), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and relevant international programmes including the Programme for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) of the Arctic Council, Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (APMWCS), International Waterbird Census (including the Asian Waterbird Census), Important Bird Area programme and others in developing and implementing international species action plans and other protection, monitoring and conservation measures for populations listed in Table 2.

2.2 Legal Measures

- 2.2.1 Range States with species listed in column A of Table 2 shall provide protection to those populations listed in accordance with this Action Plan. Such Range States shall in particular and subject to paragraph 2.2.3 below:
- (a) prohibit the taking of birds and eggs of those populations occurring in their territory;
 - (b) prohibit deliberate disturbance in so far as such disturbance would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned; and
 - (c) prohibit the possession or utilization of, and trade in, birds or eggs of those populations which have been taken in contravention of the prohibitions laid down pursuant to subparagraph (a) above, as well as the possession or utilization of, and trade in, any readily recognizable parts or derivatives of such birds and their eggs.
- 2.2.2 Range States with populations listed in Table 2 shall regulate the taking of birds and eggs of all populations listed in column B of Table 2. The object of such legal measures shall be to maintain or contribute to the restoration of those populations to a favourable conservation status and to ensure, on the basis of the best available knowledge of population dynamics, that any taking or other use is sustainable. Such legal measures, subject to paragraph 2.2.3 below, shall in particular:
- (a) prohibit the taking of birds belonging to the populations concerned during their various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned;
 - (b) regulate the modes of taking;
 - (c) establish limits on taking, where appropriate, and provide adequate controls to ensure that these limits are observed; and
 - (d) prohibit the possession or utilization of, and trade in, birds and eggs of the populations which have been taken in contravention of any prohibition laid down pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph, as well as the possession or utilization of and trade in, any parts of such birds and their eggs.

- 2.2.3 Range States may grant exemptions to the prohibitions laid down in paragraphs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2, where there is no other satisfactory solution, for the following purposes:
- (a) to prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries;
 - (b) in the interests of air safety or other overriding public interests;
 - (c) for the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes;
 - (d) to permit under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking and keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers; and
 - (e) for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the population concerned.

Such exemptions shall be precise as to content and limited in space and time and shall not operate to the detriment of the populations listed in Table 2. Range States shall as soon as possible inform the Secretariat¹³ of any exemptions granted pursuant to this provision.

- 2.2.4 Range States shall promote, whenever they consider it necessary, to establish local or site based community organisations to promote enforcement of legislation for conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetlands.

2.3 Single Species Action Plans

- 2.3.1 Range States shall cooperate with each other, as well as with appropriate international technical specialist groups, in order to develop and implement, as a priority, international single species action plans for globally threatened migratory waterbirds listed in column A of Table 2 with a view to improving their overall conservation status. The Secretariat shall coordinate the development, harmonization and implementation of such plans. When appropriate, the problem of accidental killing of birds by hunters as a result of incorrect identification of the species should be considered (also see paragraph 4.1.9).
- 2.3.2 Range States shall cooperate with a view to developing single species action plans for populations, which cause significant damage, in particular to crops and fisheries. The Secretariat shall coordinate the development and harmonization of such plans.

2.4 Emergency Measures

- 2.4.1 Range States shall in close cooperation with each other whenever possible and relevant, develop and implement emergency measures for populations listed in Table 2, when exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions (e.g., oil spills, avian disease, and cold weather) occur anywhere in the Action Plan Area.

2.5 Re-establishments

- 2.5.1 Range States shall exercise the greatest care when re-establishing populations listed in Table 2 into parts of their traditional range where they no longer exist. They shall endeavour to develop and follow a detailed re-establishment plan based on appropriate scientific studies. Re-establishment plans should constitute

¹³ References to a "Secretariat" are dependent on which legal and institutional option to support the implementation of the Action Plan is established. Initially, "Secretariat" can refer to an interim coordination mechanism established pursuant to the New Delhi Meeting Statement (2005). Depending on final decisions by Range States, the Convention on Migratory Species and AEWAs, "Secretariat" could later refer to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat or a free standing Secretariat or a coordinator established under a new Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under CMS.

an integral part of national and, where appropriate, international single species action plans. A re-establishment plan should include assessment of the impact on the environment and shall be made widely available. Range States shall inform the Secretariat, in advance, of all re-establishment programmes for populations listed in Table 2.

2.6 Introductions

- 2.6.1 Range States shall prohibit the introduction of non-native species of animals and plants, which could have a negative impact, directly or indirectly, on migratory waterbirds and their habitats listed in column A of Table 2. In case, when such undesirable introduction already took place in the past, the Range States shall take appropriate measures to control and/or eradicate invasive species.
- 2.6.2 Range States shall, if they consider it necessary, require the taking of appropriate precautions to avoid the accidental escape of captive non-native species.
- 2.6.3 Range States shall take measures to the extent feasible and appropriate, including taking, to ensure that when non-native species or hybrids thereof have already been introduced into their territory, those species or their hybrids do not pose a potential hazard to the populations listed in Table 2, particularly column A.

3 Habitat Conservation and Management

3.1 Habitat Inventories

- 3.1.1 Range States, in liaison where appropriate with competent national and international organizations, shall undertake and publish national inventories¹⁴ of the habitats within their territory, to identify all sites of international and national importance for populations listed in Table 2 and which hold internationally important numbers of waterbirds¹⁵. The inventories will provide a basis for designating additional sites under appropriate national and international conservation categories (as outlined in paragraph 3.2.3) and sites that may be considered for inclusion in the Central Asian Flyway Site Network (as outlined in section 3.3).

3.2 Conservation and Management of Habitats

- 3.2.1 Range States shall endeavour to take decisions and implement measures to ensure:
 - (a) adequate and timely supply of water required to maintain natural functions of wetlands and other important habitats known to be of importance for migratory waterbirds (especially in arid areas);
 - (b) maintain and sustainably manage wetlands and other habitats important to migratory waterbirds (e.g. steppe grasslands); and
 - (c) a participatory approach in the planning, management (and conservation) of waterbird habitats, to enable benefit sharing with local communities.

¹⁴ Ramsar Convention Res. VIII.6 (A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory) promotes the Asian Wetland Inventory framework as an appropriate methodology. For more information see: < www.ramsar.org/key_guide_inventory_e.htm >.

¹⁵ Ramsar Convention criteria to identify internationally important wetlands include: *Criterion 2*: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities; *Criterion 5*: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds; and *Criterion 6*: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird. For more information: < www.ramsar.org/key_criteria.htm >.

Relevant decisions should be widely announced and should assist obtaining national and international recognition and support.

- 3.2.2 Range States shall endeavour to avoid degradation and loss of habitats that support populations listed in Table 2 through the introduction of appropriate regulations or standards and control measures. Additionally, they shall endeavour to prepare and distribute information material, in the appropriate languages, describing such regulations, standards and control measures in force and their benefits to people and wildlife.
- 3.2.3 Range States shall provide official support to designate, conserve and manage all important breeding, moulting, staging and non-breeding (wintering) sites for populations listed in Table 2, by establishing national networks¹⁶ of all important sites under appropriate national and international conservation categories (e.g. nature reserves, national parks, wildlife reserves, sanctuaries, non-hunting areas, Ramsar sites, World Heritage Sites, Important Bird Areas¹⁷ and special conservation areas). These sites should be considered for inclusion within the Central Asian Flyway Site Network outlined in section 3.3.
- 3.2.4 Range States shall endeavour to give special protection to existing designated sites, including Ramsar Sites and World Heritage Sites, which meet internationally accepted criteria of international importance for populations listed in Table 2.
- 3.2.5 Range States shall increase the capacity of local agencies and interest groups to support development and implementation of management plans of all internationally and nationally important sites to conserve the important sites for the populations listed in Table 2. These plans shall be developed in cooperation with authorities, non-government organizations and local communities.

3.3 Establishment of CAF Site Network

- 3.3.1 Range States shall actively support the establishment of the Central Asian Flyway Site Network¹⁸, as a mechanism for linking national networks of waterbird sites of international importance across the Flyway¹⁹. Based on the principle of establishing an ecological network²⁰ of internationally important sites through

¹⁶ Ramsar Recommendation 4.4 (Establishment of Wetland Reserves), urges Contracting Parties to establish national networks of nature reserves covering both listed and non-listed wetlands < www.ramsar.org/key_rec_4.4e.htm >.

¹⁷ For information on Important Bird Areas see: < <http://www.birdlife.net/action/science/sites/index.html> >.

¹⁸ Other fora call for establishing and managing networks to conserve species, including: (a) CBD Decisions VII/28 (Protected Areas (Articles 8 (a) to e)) and VII/5 (Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity) call for network of protected areas, "with the objective of the establishment and maintenance by 2010 for terrestrial and by 2012 for marine areas of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas that collectively, *inter alia* through a global network contribute to achieving the three objectives of the Convention and the 2010 target to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss." < www.biodiv.org/decisions/ >; (b) Ramsar Resolution VII.11 (Strategic Framework and Guidelines for the Future Development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) recognises the need "To develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the ecological and hydrological functions they perform." < www.ramsar.org/key_res_vii11e.htm >; and (c) Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy calls for the establishment of a site network for the CAF < www.wetlands.org/IWC/AWC/waterbirdstrategy/download >. The site networks operating under the framework of the Strategy in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway can provide a basis for developing such a Network < www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/waterbirdstrategy/Network.htm >.

¹⁹ This Network would not be envisioned to have any authority or mandate over national or regional systems.

²⁰ A generic term used in some countries and regions, as appropriate, to encompass the application of the ecosystem approach that integrates protected areas into broader land- and/or seascapes for effective

promotion of conservation and sustainable management of wetlands and other habitats, it will also provide a mechanism to target actions to improve the well being of local people dependent on the sites. The Network will encourage implementation of a range of actions including, (a) information sharing for conservation and management of waterbird populations with focus on increasing awareness, (b) training to improve monitoring and management, (c) research and monitoring of habitats and waterbirds and (d) study tours for site managers (as outlined in paragraph 3.2.5 and sections 4.5 and 4.6). This site network will extend to and integrate with the East Asian-Australasian Site Networks established under the APMWCS and the proposed West/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane (and other waterbirds) under the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane.

3.4 Rehabilitation and Restoration

- 3.4.1 Range States shall endeavour to rehabilitate or restore²¹, where feasible and appropriate, sites which were previously important for the populations listed in Table 2.

3.5 Climate Change

- 3.5.1 Range States shall cooperate to determine and monitor the impacts of climate change on migratory waterbirds and their habitats and where appropriate respond to the threats.

4 Management of Human Activities

4.1 Harvesting/Hunting

- 4.1.1. Range States shall review their national policy and legislation in the field of hunting activities and waterbird protection with a view to implementing international guidelines to encourage harmonization, stricter protection of threatened species and sustainable exploitation of quarry species.
- 4.1.2. Range States shall cooperate to ensure that their relevant legislation implements the principle of sustainable use as envisaged in this Action Plan, taking into account the full geographical range of the waterbird populations concerned and their life history characteristics.
- 4.1.3. Range States shall develop and improve/modify their relevant legislation in terms of sustainable exploitation of quarry species and strict protection of threatened ones.
- 4.1.4. The Secretariat shall be kept informed by the Range States of their legislation relating to the harvesting/hunting of populations listed in Table 2.
- 4.1.5. Range States shall provide measures for sustainable use in particular for species that are listed in any national/regional Red Data Book/Red Data List even if they are not globally or regionally threatened.
- 4.1.6. Range States shall develop and implement necessary measures to eliminate, or reduce, as far as possible, illegal taking, poaching, and unsustainable hunting

conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use (as per CBD Decision VII/28. (Protected areas (Articles 8 (a) to (e)))) < www.biodiv.org/decisions/ >.

²¹ Ramsar Resolution VIII.16 (Principles and Guidelines for Wetland Restoration) provides practical guidance on wetland restoration < http://ramsar.org/key_guide_restoration_e.htm >.

practices of populations listed in Table 2, such as use of poisoned baits, mist netting, trapping, explosives, and control gun ownership to deter illegal taking.

- 4.1.7. Range States shall eliminate illegal trade of populations listed in Table 2.
- 4.1.8. Where appropriate, Range States shall encourage hunters to organise themselves into associations/societies (at local, state/provincial, national and international levels) to coordinate their activities and share their responsibilities for sustainable use of migratory waterbirds. Range States shall develop their own local and state/provincial systems to regulate harvesting/hunting in the context of internationally acceptable sustainable use principles²².
- 4.1.9. Range States shall promote the education and training of hunters for the conservation and sustainable use of waterbirds, including through hunting associations and shall endeavour to make mandatory hunter proficiency tests as a condition for the issue of hunting licences. The proficiency test for hunters should include, among other things, waterbird identification including of target and non-target species.
- 4.1.10. Range States shall reduce as far as possible the lead poisoning in waterbirds by gradual phasing out of lead shot and its replacement by non-toxic shot. They shall endeavour to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands by the year 2015.²³
- 4.1.11. Range States shall initiate efforts to collect and publish harvest data/hunting statistics on migratory waterbirds, in order to be able to establish the international coordination of sustainable waterbird harvest in the future.
- 4.1.12. Range States shall cooperate with a view to developing a reliable and harmonized flyway wide system for the collection of harvest data in order to assess the annual harvest of populations or, when this is not possible, assess the annual harvest of the species listed in Table 2. They shall provide the Secretariat with estimates of the total annual take for each population or, when this is not possible, assess the annual harvest of the species.

4.2 Livelihood Support Activities

- 4.2.1. Range States shall support the development of sensitive and appropriate eco-tourism at wetlands and other habitats holding concentrations of populations listed in Table 2, where and when such activities do not impact harmfully on the waterbirds and their habitats.
- 4.2.2. Range States shall review and promote traditional uses and, develop management practices that are sustainable in reference to migratory waterbirds and their habitats²⁴.
- 4.2.3. Range States shall endeavour to evaluate the costs, benefits and other consequences that can result from consumptive and non-consumptive use at selected wetlands and other habitats with concentrations of populations listed in

²² CBD Decision VI.13 (Sustainable Use) provides guidelines for the sustainable use of species, including migratory species. < www.biodiv.org/decisions/ >.

²³ Please note that a target for phasing out lead shot was set for the year 2000 for AEWAs Contracting Parties. This target would continue to apply to Parties within the existing AEWAs Agreement Area if the CAF Action Plan is brought within AEWAs. AEWAs Resolution 2.2 requests Contracting Parties to enhance their efforts to phase out lead shot and also to report back to the Third Meeting of Parties (October 2005). CAF Range States that are outside the AEWAs Agreement Area would endeavour to meet the 2015 target.

²⁴ Ramsar Resolution VIII.14 (New Guidelines for Management Planning for Ramsar Sites and other Wetlands) provides a useful framework for wetland management planning < www.ramsar.org/key_guide_mgt_new_e.htm >.

Table 2 and, where necessary, seek cooperation from competent international agencies and organizations²⁵. They shall communicate the results of any such evaluations to the Secretariat.

- 4.2.4. Range States shall give adequate attention to gender issues while developing and implementing alternative livelihood options to manage wetlands and other habitats important to migratory waterbirds.

4.3 Assessing Impacts of Development Activities

- 4.3.1. Range States shall, as far as possible, undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment, adopting international best practice methodologies²⁶, of human activities that could have impact on migratory waterbird populations and their habitats.
- 4.3.2. Range States shall assess the impact of proposed projects which are likely to lead to conflicts between populations listed in Table 2 that are in the areas referred to in section 3.2 and human interests, and shall make the results of the assessment publicly available.
- 4.3.3. Range States shall, as far as possible, promote high environmental standards in the planning and construction of structures to minimize their impact on populations listed in Table 2 through national and provincial/state legislation. They should consider steps to minimize the impact of structures already in existence where it becomes evident that they constitute a negative impact for the populations concerned.

4.4 Other Human Activities

- 4.4.1. In cases where human disturbance threatens the conservation status of waterbird populations listed in Table 2, Range States shall endeavour to take measures to limit the level of threat. Special attention shall be given to the problem of human disturbance at breeding colonies of colonially nesting waterbirds, especially when they are situated in areas, which are popular for outdoor recreation. Appropriate measures could include, *inter alia*, establishing disturbance-free zones in protected areas where public access is not permitted.
- 4.4.2. Range States shall endeavour to gather information on the damage, in particular to crops and to fisheries, caused by populations listed in Table 2, and report the results to the Secretariat.

²⁵ CBD Decision VI.13 (Sustainable Use) provides guidelines for the sustainable use of species, including migratory species. < www.biodiv.org/decisions/ >.

²⁶ CMS Resolution 7.10 (Impact Assessment on Migratory Species), the CBD Decision VI.7 adopting "Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environmental Impact Assessment Legislation and/or Processes and in Strategic Environmental Assessment" and "Recommendations for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessment regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities" and Ramsar Resolution VIII.9 (Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environmental Impact Assessment Legislation and/or Processes and in Strategic Environmental Assessment' Adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and their Relevance to the Ramsar Convention) provides a useful framework for assessments of wetlands and other habitats and impacts on migratory species.

- 4.4.3. Range States shall cooperate with a view to identifying appropriate techniques to minimize damage, or to mitigate the effects of damage, in particular to crops and to fisheries, caused by populations listed in Table 2, drawing on the experience gained elsewhere in the world.
- 4.4.4. Range States shall ensure that adequate statutory pollution controls are in place, including those relating to the use of agricultural chemicals, pest control procedures, oil spills and the disposal of waste water, which are in accordance with international norms, for the purpose of minimizing their adverse impacts on the populations listed in Table 2.
- 4.4.5. Range States shall monitor disease occurrence in wild waterbirds and, using a multi-disciplinary approach, assess disease risk and implications for human health, in relation to poultry husbandry and trade practices, trade in wild waterbirds and migratory waterbird movements.

4.5 Research and Monitoring

- 4.5.1. Range States shall endeavour to establish an international network of specialists and organizations involved in research, monitoring and conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetlands. If necessary, these networks at the national levels shall be strengthened through appointment of national coordinators.
- 4.5.2. Range States shall endeavour, with international support, if necessary, to carry out survey work in remote and poorly investigated areas, which may encompass the important habitats of migratory waterbirds listed in Table 2, in particular, their breeding grounds. The results of such surveys shall be disseminated widely.
- 4.5.3. Range States shall support international efforts to collect/collate available data and publish reviews on the level of understanding of migration strategies, routes, and important habitats of waterbird populations. In particular, they shall encourage the examination of ringing/marketing data.
- 4.5.4. Range States shall cooperate with a view to determining the migration routes of all populations listed in Table 2, using available knowledge of breeding and non-breeding season distributions and census results, and by participating in coordinated marking programmes.
- 4.5.5. Range States shall endeavour to undertake studies on the effects of wetland loss and degradation and disturbance on the carrying capacity of wetlands used by the populations listed in Table 2 and on the migration patterns of such populations.
- 4.5.6. Range States shall, if they consider it acceptable, collect/collate and publish available data on threats to migratory waterbirds caused by legal and illegal harvest, habitat loss and other reasons. A study is needed to determine the importance of these forms of utilization to the local and national economy and biodiversity.
- 4.5.7. Range States shall support the development of new local, national and international research projects for better understanding of ecology, migratory strategies and population dynamics of waterbird species, and their use of important sites, in order to determine their specific requirements as well as the techniques which are the most appropriate for their conservation and management. Taking advantage of the advances in satellite telemetry to study the precise routes and sites of importance for populations shall be supported.
- 4.5.8. Range States shall endeavour to be involved in regular monitoring programmes, such as the International Waterbird Census, complemented by surveys of important breeding grounds, staging and non-breeding (wintering) sites. The

results of such surveys shall be published and disseminated widely. The results will also be sent to appropriate international organizations, to enable reviews of population status and trends.

- 4.5.9. Range States shall cooperate to improve the measurement of bird population trends as a criterion for describing the status of such populations.

4.6 Training, Education and Public Awareness

- 4.6.1. Range States shall, where necessary, arrange for training programmes to ensure that personnel responsible for implementing this Action Plan have adequate knowledge to implement it effectively.
- 4.6.2. Range States shall cooperate with each other and international organizations in order to develop and arrange new appropriate training programmes for national officials, stakeholders and experts on waterbird and habitat monitoring, protection and management.
- 4.6.3. Range States shall develop their agencies responsible for waterbird and wetland management and conservation, where appropriate, with support of international organizations.
- 4.6.4. Range States shall cooperate with each other (bilaterally, multilaterally and regionally) and the Secretariat with a view to exchanging resource materials²⁷ and developing training programmes.
- 4.6.5. Range States shall develop education and awareness activities, preferably in local languages, in order to improve the level of awareness of the general public with regard to the value of wetlands and other habitats and the needs of waterbirds. Such activities shall include producing CAF posters and leaflets, organizing outdoor excursions, designing a multi-lingual website, TV and radio programmes, and others. These activities should be firstly targeted to people living in and around important wetlands, to users of these wetlands (farmers, hunters, fishermen, tourists, etc.), to local authorities, to community leaders and other decision-makers. Support and guidance should be sought from national and international organizations to maximize efforts.

5 Implementation

- 5.1 When implementing this Action Plan, Range States shall, when appropriate, give priority to those populations listed in column A of Table 2.
- 5.2 Where, in the case of populations listed in Table 2, more than one population of the same species occurs on the territory of a Range State, that Range State shall apply conservation measures appropriate to the population or populations that have the poorest conservation status.

²⁷ Ramsar Resolution VIII.31 (The Convention's Programme on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) 2003-2008) provides a basis for activities related to wetland sites.
< www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii31e.htm >

- 5.3 The Secretariat with the assistance of experts from Range States, shall coordinate the development of an international network of sites of importance for migratory waterbirds in the Central Asian Flyway (as outlined in section 3.3).
- 5.4 Range States shall cooperate to establish a clearing house mechanism to inform and support implementation of the Action Plan. This will benefit from being implemented in consultation with relevant conventions and agreements with established clearing house mechanisms.
- 5.5 The Secretariat, with the assistance of experts from Range States, shall coordinate the development of conservation guidelines to assist the Range States in the implementation of this Action Plan²⁸. The Secretariat shall ensure, where possible, coherence with guidelines approved under other international instruments²⁹ and advice of the Secretariats of AEWA, CMS, Ramsar, CBD, APMWCS, etc., will need to be sought. These conservation guidelines shall aim at introducing the principle of sustainable use. They shall cover, *inter alia*:
- (a) establishment of a site network for migratory waterbirds;
 - (b) single species action plans;
 - (c) emergency measures;
 - (d) preparation of site inventories and habitat management methods;
 - (e) hunting legislation and practices;
 - (f) trade in waterbirds;
 - (g) eco-tourism;
 - (h) reducing crop damage;
 - (i) a waterbird monitoring protocol; and
 - (j) participatory planning, management of wetlands and benefit sharing.
- 5.6 The Secretariat²⁸, in coordination with the Range States, shall prepare a series of international reviews necessary for the implementation of this Action Plan, including:
- (a) reports on the status and trends of populations;
 - (b) gaps in information from surveys;
 - (c) the networks of sites used by each population, including reviews of the protection status of each site as well as of the management measures taken in each case;
 - (d) pertinent hunting and trade legislation in each country relating to the species listed in Table 2 to this Action Plan;
 - (e) the stage of preparation and implementation of single species action plans;
 - (f) re-establishment projects; and
 - (g) the status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrids thereof.
- 5.7 The Secretariat shall endeavour to ensure that the reviews mentioned in paragraph 5.6 are updated at intervals of not more than three years.
- 5.8 The Secretariat shall endeavour to initiate bilateral, regional and flyway scale training, education and public awareness activities.
- 5.9 An outcome-oriented medium-term Flyway Strategic Plan shall be developed to prioritize international actions and national activities requiring international cooperation to implement the Action Plan, allowing for regular review of progress and for setting of funding targets.

²⁸ An advisory body will be required to provide scientific and technical advice and information to the “secretariat”. The advisory body could comprise an agreed number of experts representing different CAF sub-regions, representatives of relevant international organisations and experts on particular issues.

²⁹ A range of guidelines developed by AEWA <unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop1docs/pdf/1-8pdf> and Ramsar Convention <www.ramsar.org/key_guidelines_index.htm> can provide a basis for implementation.

- 5.10 Range States shall develop outcome-oriented medium-term National Strategic Plans that reflect national priorities to implement the Action Plan, allowing for regular review of progress and setting of funding targets. The National Strategic Plans will also contribute to the Flyway Strategic Plan.
- 5.11 The Secretariat shall regularly undertake a review of potential mechanisms for providing additional resources (funds and technical assistance) for the implementation of this Action Plan, and shall make a report to the Range States³⁰.

³⁰ Action will be dependent on the legal and institutional framework established to support implementation of the CAF Action Plan.

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Table 1: Migratory Waterbirds of the Central Asian Flyway Region included in the Action Plan

| | Species | English name | Threatened species ¹ | CMS Appendix ² |
|----|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | GAVIIDAE | DIVERS | | |
| 1 | <i>Gavia stellata</i> | Red-throated Diver | | |
| 2 | <i>Gavia arctica</i> | Black-throated Diver | | II |
| | | | | |
| | PODICIPEDIDAE | GREBES | | |
| 3 | <i>Tachibaptus ruficollis*</i> | Little Grebe | | |
| 4 | <i>Podiceps grisegena</i> | Red-necked Grebe | | II |
| 5 | <i>Podiceps cristatus*</i> | Great Crested Grebe | | |
| 6 | <i>Podiceps auritus</i> | Slavonian Grebe | | |
| 7 | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> | Black-necked Grebe | | |
| | | | | |
| | PELECANIDAE | PELICANS | | |
| 8 | <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> | Great White Pelican | | I |
| 9 | <i>Pelecanus philippensis*</i> | Spot-billed Pelican | VU | |
| 10 | <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> | Dalmatian Pelican | VU | I |
| | | | | |
| | PHALACROCORACIDAE | CORMORANTS & DARTERS | | |
| 11 | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo*</i> | Great Cormorant | | |
| 12 | <i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*</i> | Socotra Cormorant | VU | II |
| 13 | <i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i> | Pygmy Cormorant | nt | II |
| 14 | <i>Anhinga rufa*</i> | African Darter | | |
| | | | | |
| | ARDEIDAE | HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS | | |
| 15 | <i>Ardea cinerea*</i> | Grey Heron | | |
| 16 | <i>Ardea alba*</i> | Great (White) Egret | | |
| 17 | <i>Ardea modesta</i> | Eastern Great Egret | | |
| 18 | <i>Ardea insignis*</i> | White-bellied Heron | EN | |
| 19 | <i>Ardea goliath*</i> | Goliath Heron | | |
| 20 | <i>Ardea purpurea*</i> | Purple Heron | | |
| 21 | <i>Bubulcus ibis*</i> | Cattle Egret | | |
| 22 | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | Squacco Heron | | |
| 23 | <i>Egretta garzetta*</i> | Little Egret | | |
| 24 | <i>Egretta garzetta schistacea*</i> | Western Reef Egret | | |
| 25 | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax*</i> | Black-crowned Night-heron | | |
| 26 | <i>Gorsachius melanolophus*</i> | Malayan Night-heron | | |
| 27 | <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> | Eurasian Bittern | | |
| 28 | <i>Ixobrychus minutus*</i> | Little Bittern | | |
| 29 | <i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*</i> | Cinnamon Bittern | | |
| 30 | <i>Ixobrychus (Dupetor) flavicollis*</i> | Black Bittern | | |
| | | | | |

| | Species | English name | Threatened species ¹ | CMS Appendix ² |
|----|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | CICONIIDAE | STORKS | | |
| 31 | <i>Anastomus oscitans</i> | Asian Openbill Stork | | |
| 32 | <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | Black Stork | | II |
| 33 | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | European White Stork | | II |
| 34 | <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i> | Lesser Adjutant | VU | |
| 35 | <i>Leptoptilos dubius</i> | Greater Adjutant | EN | |
| | | | | |
| | THRESKIORNITHIDAE | IBISES & SPOONBILLS | | |
| 36 | <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> * | Sacred Ibis | | |
| 37 | <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> * | Black-headed (White) Ibis | nt | |
| 38 | <i>Geronticus eremita</i> * | Northern Bald Ibis, Waldrapp | CR | I |
| 39 | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> * | Glossy Ibis | | II |
| 40 | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> * | Eurasian Spoonbill | | II |
| | | | | |
| | PHOENICOPTERIDAE | FLAMINGOS | | |
| 41 | <i>Phoenicopterus ruber roseus</i> * | Greater Flamingo | | II |
| 42 | <i>Phoenicopterus minor</i> * | Lesser Flamingo | nt | II |
| | | | | |
| | ANATIDAE | SWANS, GEES & DUCKS | | |
| 43 | <i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i> * | Greater Whistling Duck | | II |
| 44 | <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> * | Lesser Whistling Duck | | II |
| 45 | <i>Cygnus olor</i> | Mute Swan | | II |
| 46 | <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> | Whooper Swan | | II |
| 47 | <i>Cygnus (columbianus) bewickii</i> | Bewick's Swan | | |
| 48 | <i>Anser fabalis</i> | Bean Goose | | II |
| 49 | <i>Anser albifrons</i> | White-fronted Goose | | II |
| 50 | <i>Anser erythropus</i> | Lesser White-fronted Goose | VU | I |
| 51 | <i>Anser anser</i> | Greylag Goose | | II |
| 52 | <i>Anser indicus</i> * | Bar-headed Goose | | II |
| 53 | <i>Branta ruficollis</i> | Red-breasted Goose | VU | I |
| 54 | <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> * | Ruddy Shelduck | | II |
| 55 | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | Common Shelduck | | II |
| 56 | <i>Sarkidiornis melanotus</i> | Comb Duck | | II |
| 57 | <i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i> * | Cotton Pygmy-goose | | |
| 58 | <i>Anas penelope</i> | Eurasian Wigeon | | II |
| 59 | <i>Anas falcata</i> | Falcated Teal | | II |
| 60 | <i>Anas strepera</i> | Gadwall | | II |
| 61 | <i>Anas crecca</i> | Green-winged Teal | | II |
| 62 | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> * | Mallard | | II |
| 63 | <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i> * | Spot-billed Duck | | II |
| 64 | <i>Anas acuta</i> | Northern Pintail | | II |
| 65 | <i>Anas querquedula</i> | Garganey | | II |
| 66 | <i>Anas clypeata</i> | Northern Shoveler | | II |
| 67 | <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i> | Marbled Teal | VU | I |
| 68 | <i>Netta rufina</i> | Red-crested Pochard | | II |
| 69 | <i>Aythya ferina</i> | Common Pochard | | II |

| | Species | English name | Threatened species¹ | CMS Appendix² |
|-----|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 70 | <i>Aythya baeri</i> | Baer's Pochard | VU | II |
| 71 | <i>Aythya nyroca</i> | Ferruginous Duck | nt | I |
| 72 | <i>Aythya fuligula</i> | Tufted Duck | | II |
| 73 | <i>Aythya marila</i> | Greater Scaup | | II |
| 74 | <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> | Long-tailed Duck | | II |
| 75 | <i>Melanitta fusca</i> | Velvet Scoter | | II |
| 76 | <i>Bucephala clangula</i> | Common Goldeneye | | II |
| 77 | <i>Mergellus albellus</i> | Smew | | II |
| 78 | <i>Mergus serrator</i> | Red-breasted Merganser | | II |
| 79 | <i>Mergus merganser*</i> | Goosander | | II |
| 80 | <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> | White-headed Duck | EN | I |
| | | | | |
| | GRUIDAE | CRANES | | |
| 81 | <i>Grus virgo</i> | Demoiselle Crane | | II |
| 82 | <i>Grus leucogeranus</i> | Siberian Crane | CR | I |
| 83 | <i>Grus grus</i> | Common Crane | | II |
| 84 | <i>Grus nigricollis*</i> | Black-necked Crane | VU | I |
| | | | | |
| | RALLIDAE | RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS | | |
| 85 | <i>Rallina eurizinoides*</i> | Banded Crake | | |
| 86 | <i>Gallirallus striatus</i> | Slaty-breasted Rail | | |
| 87 | <i>Rallus aquaticus*</i> | Water Rail | | |
| 88 | <i>Crex crex</i> | Corncrake | VU | I |
| 89 | <i>Amauornis phoenicurus*</i> | White-breasted Waterhen | | |
| 90 | <i>Porzana parva</i> | Little Crake | | |
| 91 | <i>Porzana pusilla*</i> | Baillon's Crake | | |
| 92 | <i>Porzana porzana</i> | Spotted Crake | | |
| 93 | <i>Porzana fusca*</i> | Ruddy-breasted Crake | | |
| 94 | <i>Gallinula chloropus*</i> | Moorhen | | |
| 95 | <i>Fulica atra*</i> | Common Coot | | |
| | | | | |
| | HELIORNITHIDAE | FINFOOTS | | |
| 96 | <i>Heliopais personata*</i> | Masked Finfoot | VU | |
| | | | | |
| | JACANIDAE | JACANAS | | |
| 97 | <i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus*</i> | Pheasant-tailed Jacana | | |
| | | | | |
| | DROMADIDAE | CRAB PLOVER | | |
| 98 | <i>Dromas ardeola</i> | Crab Plover | | II |
| | | | | |
| | HEMATOPODIDAE | OYSTERCATCHERS | | |
| 99 | <i>Haematopus ostralegus*</i> | Eurasian Oystercatcher | | |
| | | | | |
| | IBIDORHYNCHIDAE | IBISBILL | | |
| 100 | <i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i> | Ibisbill | | |

| | Species | English name | Threatened species ¹ | CMS Appendix ² |
|-----|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | RECURVIROSTRIDAE | STILTS & AVOCETS | | |
| 101 | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> * | Black-winged Stilt | | II |
| 102 | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> * | Pied Avocet | | II |
| | GLAREOLIDAE | COURSERS & PRATINCOLES | | |
| 103 | <i>Glareola pratincola</i> | Collared Pratincole | | II |
| 104 | <i>Glareola maldivarum</i> | Oriental Pratincole | | |
| 105 | <i>Glareola nordmanni</i> | Black-winged Pratincole | | II |
| | CHARADRIIDAE | PLOVERS | | |
| 106 | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | Northern Lapwing | | II |
| 107 | <i>Vanellus cinereus</i> | Grey-headed Lapwing | | II |
| 108 | <i>Vanellus gregarius</i> | Sociable Plover | CR | I |
| 109 | <i>Vanallus leucurus</i> * | White-tailed Plover | | II |
| 110 | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> | Eurasian Golden Plover | | II |
| 111 | <i>Pluvialis fulva</i> | Pacific Golden Plover | | II |
| 112 | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | Grey Plover | | II |
| 113 | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | Common Ringed Plover | | II |
| 114 | <i>Charadrius placidus</i> | Long-billed Plover | | II |
| 115 | <i>Charadrius dubius</i> * | Little Ringed Plover | | II |
| 116 | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> * | Kentish Plover | | II |
| 117 | <i>Charadrius mongolus</i> | Lesser (Mongolian) Plover | | II |
| 118 | <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> | Greater Sandplover | | II |
| 119 | <i>Charadrius asiaticus</i> | Caspian Plover | | II |
| 120 | <i>Eudromias morinellus</i> | Eurasian Dotterel | | II |
| | SCOLOPACIDAE | SNIPES, SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES | | |
| 121 | <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> | Eurasian Woodcock | | II |
| 122 | <i>Gallinago solitaria</i> | Solitary Snipe | | II |
| 123 | <i>Gallinago nemoricola</i> | Wood Snipe | VU | I |
| 124 | <i>Gallinago stenura</i> | Pintail Snipe | | II |
| 125 | <i>Gallinago megala</i> | Swinhoe's Snipe | | II |
| 126 | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | Common Snipe | | II |
| 127 | <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i> | Jack Snipe | | II |
| 128 | <i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i> | Asian Dowitcher | nt | II |
| 129 | <i>Limosa limosa</i> | Black-tailed Godwit | | II |
| 130 | <i>Limosa lapponica</i> | Bar-tailed Godwit | | II |
| 131 | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | Whimbrel | | II |
| 132 | <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i> | Slender-billed Curlew | CR | I |
| 133 | <i>Numenius arquata</i> | Eurasian Curlew | | II |
| 134 | <i>Tringa erythropus</i> | Spotted Redshank | | II |
| 135 | <i>Tringa totanus</i> * | Common Redshank | | II |
| 136 | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> | Marsh Sandpiper | | II |
| 137 | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | Common Greenshank | | II |

| | Species | English name | Threatened species¹ | CMS Appendix² |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 138 | <i>Tringa guttifer</i> | Nordmann's Greenshank | EN | I |
| 139 | <i>Tringa ochropus</i> | Green Sandpiper | | II |
| 140 | <i>Tringa glareola</i> | Wood Sandpiper | | II |
| 141 | <i>Tringa (Xenus) cinerea</i> | Terek Sandpiper | | II |
| 142 | <i>Tringa (Actitis) hypoleucos*</i> | Common Sandpiper | | II |
| 143 | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | Ruddy Turnstone | | II |
| 144 | <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i> | Great Knot | | II |
| 145 | <i>Calidris canutus</i> | Red Knot | | II |
| 146 | <i>Calidris alba</i> | Sanderling | | II |
| 147 | <i>Calidris ruficollis</i> | Red-necked Stint | | II |
| 148 | <i>Calidris minuta</i> | Little Stint | | II |
| 149 | <i>Calidris temminckii</i> | Temminck's Stint | | II |
| 150 | <i>Calidris subminuta</i> | Long-toed Stint | | II |
| 151 | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | Curlew Sandpiper | | II |
| 152 | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | Dunlin | | II |
| 153 | <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus</i> | Spoon-billed Sandpiper | EN | I |
| 154 | <i>Limicola falcinellus</i> | Broad-billed Sandpiper | | II |
| 155 | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> | Ruff | | II |
| 156 | <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> | Red-necked Phalarope | | II |
| | | | | |
| | LARIDAE | GULLS & TERNS | | |
| 157 | <i>Larus hemprichii</i> | White-eyed Gull | nt | II |
| 158 | <i>Larus canus</i> | Common Gull | | |
| 159 | <i>Larus argentatus*</i> | Herring Gull | | |
| 160 | <i>Larus heuglini*</i> | Heuglin's Gull | | |
| 161 | <i>Larus armenicus*</i> | Armenian Gull | | |
| 162 | <i>Larus cachinnans</i> | Yellow-legged Gull | | |
| 163 | <i>Larus fuscus</i> | Lesser Black-backed Gull | | |
| 164 | <i>Larus ichthyaetus</i> | Great Black-headed Gull | | |
| 165 | <i>Larus brunnicephalus</i> | Brown-headed Gull | | |
| 166 | <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | Black-headed Gull | | |
| 167 | <i>Larus genei</i> | Slender-billed Gull | | II |
| 168 | <i>Larus relictus</i> | Relict Gull | VU | I |
| 169 | <i>Larus minutus</i> | Little Gull | | |
| 170 | <i>Sterna (Gelocheidon) nilotica*</i> | Gull-billed Tern | | |
| 171 | <i>Sterna caspia*</i> | Caspian Tern | | |
| 172 | <i>Sterna bengalensis*</i> | Lesser Crested Tern | | II |
| 173 | <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> | Sandwich Tern | | II |
| 174 | <i>Sterna bergii</i> | Crested Tern | | II |
| 175 | <i>Sterna dougallii</i> | Roseate Tern | | |
| 176 | <i>Sterna hirundo*</i> | Common Tern | | |
| 177 | <i>Sterna albifrons*</i> | Little Tern | | II |
| 178 | <i>Sterna saundersii</i> | Saunders' Tern | | II |
| 179 | <i>Sterna repressa</i> | White-cheeked Tern | | II |
| 180 | <i>Chlidonias hybridus*</i> | Whiskered Tern | | |
| 181 | <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> | White-winged Tern | | II |

| | Species | English name | Threatened species¹ | CMS Appendix² |
|-----|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| | RHYNCHOPIDAE | SKIMMERS | | |
| 182 | <i>Rynchops albicollis</i> | Indian Skimmer | VU | |

Notes:

1. Threatened species as identified by BirdLife International (2004): CR – Critically Endangered; EN – Endangered; VU – Vulnerable; nt - near threatened; DD - data deficient.
2. CMS - Appendix I and II listed species (downloaded from CMS website on 1 Feb. 2005; effective from 23 Dec. 2002).
3. Species marked with asterisk (*) have some resident populations.

Table 2: Status of Biogeographic Populations of Migratory Waterbirds in the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan

KEY TO CLASSIFICATION

The key to the classification in the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan follows the AEWA Action Plan 2003-2005. The following key to Table 2 is a basis for implementation of the Action Plan:

Column A

Category 1:

- (a) Species which are included in Appendix I to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory species of Wild Animals;
- (b) Species which are listed as threatened in Threatened Birds of the World (BirdLife International 2004); or
- (c) Populations, which number less than around 10,000 individuals.

Category 2: Populations numbering between around 10,000 and around 25,000 individuals.

Category 3: Populations numbering between around 25,000 and around 100,000 individuals and considered to be at risk as a result of:

- (a) Concentration onto a small number of sites at any stage of their annual cycle;
- (b) Dependence on a habitat type, which is under severe threat;
- (c) Showing significant long-term decline; or
- (d) Showing extreme fluctuations in population size or trend.

Column B

Category 1: Populations numbering between around 25,000 and around 100,000 individuals and which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of column A, as described above.

Category 2: Populations numbering more than around 100,000 individuals and considered to be in need of special attention as a result of:

- (a) Concentration onto a small number of sites at any stage of their annual cycle;
- (b) Dependence on a habitat type, which is under severe threat;
- (c) Showing significant long-term decline; or
- (d) Showing extreme fluctuations in population size or trend.

Column C

Category 1: Populations numbering more than around 100,000 individuals which could significantly benefit from international cooperation and which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of either column A or column B, above.

DEFINITION OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS USED IN RANGE DESCRIPTIONS

The larger geographical regions most commonly used to describe the ranges of populations in the range description columns are listed below alongside the range states that they usually encompass (third edition of *Waterbird Population Estimates*). This list does not attempt to conform to any other definitions of these regions, and the groupings of states have been defined with no purpose other than to describe the boundaries of waterbird populations. Furthermore, these groupings are intended only as a guideline to the countries in which the population in question may occur. Depending on the species concerned, a minority of countries might be excluded from each region, or one or more additional countries might be added.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Western Palearctic | As defined in <i>Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa</i> (Cramp & Simmons 1977). |
| Western Siberia | The Russian Federation east of the Ural Mountains to the Yenisey River and south to the Kazakhstan border. |
| Central Siberia | The Russian Federation from the Yenisey River to the eastern boundary of the |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Caspian | Taimyr Peninsula and south to the Altai Mountains. Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. |
| South-west Asia (or West Asia) | Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, eastern Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen. |
| Central Asia | Afghanistan, western parts of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. |
| Southern Asia | Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. |

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| br: breeding | non-br: non-breeding (wintering) |
| N: North | E: East |
| S: South | W: West |
| NE: North-east | NW: North-west |
| SE: South-east | SW: South-west |
| () Population status unknown. Conservation status estimated. | |

NOTES

1. The populations identified and brief descriptions are based on the descriptions used in the third edition of *Waterbird Population Estimates*.
2. The sequence of populations follows the third edition of *Waterbird Population Estimates*.
3. The population data used to compile Table 2 as far as possible correspond to the number of individuals in the potential breeding stock in the Action Plan area. Status of populations of waterbirds is based on the third edition of *Waterbird Population Estimates*.
4. Status of populations of waterbirds included in the AEWA is as listed in the AEWA Action Plan 2003-2005.
5. Slash signs (/) are used to separate breeding areas from non-breeding (wintering) areas.
6. Suffixes (br) or (non-br) in population listings are solely aids to population identification. They do not indicate seasonal restrictions to actions in respect of these populations under the Action Plan.
7. Where a species' population is listed in Table 2 with multiple categorisation, the obligations of the Action Plan relate to the strictest category listed.
8. Species marked with asterisk (*) have resident populations.

REVIEW OF TABLE 2

The Table shall be reviewed regularly by an advisory body established to provide guidance to the Action Plan.

| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWA |
|---|---|-----|-----|--------------------|
| GAVIIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Gavia stellata</i> | | | | |
| ~ Caspian, Black Sea & Eastern Mediterranean (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Gavia arctica arctica</i> | | | | |
| ~ Coastal NW Europe, Mediterranean, Black & Caspian Seas (non-br) | | 2c | | # |
| <i>Gavia arctica suschkini</i> | | | | |
| ~ Central Siberia/Caspian | | | (1) | # |
| | | | | |
| PODICIPEDIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Tachibaptus ruficollis ruficollis*</i> | | | | |
| ~ Europe & North-west Africa | | | 1 | |

| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWA |
|---|-------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| <i>Tachibaptus ruficollis capensis</i> * | | | | |
| ~ Southwestern/Southern Asia | | | 1 | |
| <i>Podiceps grisegena grisegena</i> | | | | |
| ~ Black Sea & Med (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| ~ Caspian (non-br) | 2 | | | # |
| <i>Podiceps grisegena (balchashensis)</i> | | | | |
| ~ Southern Asia (non-br) | 1c | | | |
| <i>Podiceps cristatus* cristatus</i> | | | | |
| ~ Black Sea & Med (non-br) | | | 1 | # |
| ~ Caspian Sea (non-br) | 1c | | | # |
| ~ Southern Asia | 2 | | | # |
| <i>Podiceps auritus auritus</i> | | | | |
| ~ Caspian & S Asia (non-br) | 2 | | | # |
| <i>Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW/S Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | # |
| | | | | |
| PELECANIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ NE Africa & SW Asia (non-br) | 1a 3c | | | # |
| ~ Southern Asia (non-br) | 1a 3c | | | |
| <i>Pelecanus philippensis*</i> | | | | |
| ~ Southern Asia | 1(b) | | | |
| <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> | | | | |
| ~ Black Sea & Med (non-br) | 1a 1c | | | # |
| ~ SW & S Asia (non-br) | 1a 2 | | | # |
| | | | | |
| PHALACROCORACIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Phalacrocorax carbo* sinensis</i> | | | | |
| ~ Black Sea/Mediterranean | | | 1 | # |
| ~ SW Asia, Caspian (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ Southern Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*</i> | | | | |
| ~ Arabian coast | 1c | | | # |
| <i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i> | | | | |
| ~ Black Sea & Mediterranean | | 1 | | # |
| ~ South-west Asia | | 1 | | # |
| <i>Anhinga rufa*</i> | | | | |
| - (chantrei) | 1c | | | |
| | | | | |
| ARDEIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Ardea cinerea cinerea*</i> | | | | |
| ~ E Black Sea & W/SW Asia (br) | | | (1) | # |
| <i>Ardea cinerea rectirostris*</i> | | | | |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | 2 | | | |
| <i>Ardea alba alba*</i> | | | | |
| ~ Black Sea & Med (non-br) | 2 | | | # |
| ~ Southwestern Asia (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Ardea modesta*</i> | | | | |

| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWA |
|---|-------|------|---|--------------------|
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | 3c | | | |
| <i>Ardea insignis</i> | | | | |
| ~ Nepal, NE India & Myanmar | 1b1c | | | |
| <i>Ardea goliath</i> * | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia | 1c | | | # |
| ~ S Asia | 1c | | | |
| <i>Ardea purpurea purpurea</i> * | | | | |
| ~ E Europe & SW Asia (br) | | (2c) | | # |
| <i>Ardea purpurea manilensis</i> * | | | | |
| ~ South Asia | 2 | | | |
| <i>Ardea (Bubulcus) ibis ibis</i> * | | | | |
| ~ E Mediterranean/SW Asia | 2 | | | # |
| <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | | | | |
| ~ S, SW Asia & BlackSea (br) | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Egretta garzetta garzetta</i> * | | | | |
| ~ Black Sea/Med (br) | | | 1 | # |
| ~ Western Asia (br) | | (1) | | # |
| ~ South Asia | | 1 | | |
| <i>Egretta garzetta schistacea</i> * | | | | |
| ~ Southwestern/Southern Asia | 2 | | | # |
| <i>Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax</i> * | | | | |
| ~ Caspian/SW Asia & NE Africa (br) | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Gorsachius melanolophus melanolophus</i> * | | | | |
| ~ South Asia | (1) | | | |
| <i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i> | | | | |
| ~ W & Central Asia (br) | 3c | | | # |
| ~ Southwestern Asia (non-br) | 2 | | | # |
| ~ Southern Asia (non-br) | (1) | | | |
| <i>Ixobrychus minutus minutus</i> * | | | | |
| ~ W & SW Asia (br) | | (1) | | # |
| ~ South Asia | 2 | | | |
| <i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i> * | | | | |
| ~ South Asia | | 2b | | |
| <i>Ixobrychus (Dupetor) flavicollis flavicollis</i> * | | | | |
| ~ South Asia | | 1 | | |
| CICONIIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Anastomus oscitans</i> | | | | |
| ~ South & Southeast Asia | | | 1 | |
| <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | | | | |
| ~ Central & Eastern Europe (br) | 2 | | | # |
| ~ SW & S Asia (non-br) | 1c | | | |
| <i>Ciconia ciconia ciconia</i> | | | | |
| ~ C & E Europe (br) | | | 1 | # |
| ~ W Asia and Causasus (br) | 2 | | | # |
| <i>Ciconia ciconia asiatica</i> | | | | |
| ~ Southern Asia (non-br) | 1c | | | |
| <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i> | | | | |
| ~ South & Southeast Asia | 1b 1c | | | |

| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWA |
|--|----------|-------|---|--------------------|
| <i>Leptoptilos dubius</i> | | | | |
| ~ Assam (India, br) / Nepal, Bangladesh | 1b 1c | | | |
| THRESKIORNITHIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> | | | | |
| ~Iraq/Iran | 1c | | | # |
| <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ Southern Asia | 1b | | | |
| <i>Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia (br) | | (1) | | # |
| ~ S & SE Asia (non-br) | 2 | | | |
| <i>Platalea leucorodia major*</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW & S Asia (non-br) | 2 | | | # |
| PHOENICOPTERIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Phoenicopterus ruber roseus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ Eastern Med, SW Asia & S Asia | | 2a | | # |
| <i>Phoenicopterus minor*</i> | | | | |
| ~ South Asia | | 2a | | |
| ANATIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Dendrocygna bicolor*</i> | | | | |
| ~ South Asia | 2 | | | |
| <i>Dendrocygna javanica*</i> | | | | |
| ~ South Asia | | | 1 | |
| <i>Cygnus olor</i> | | | | |
| ~ W Central Asia, Caspian | | 2a 2d | | # |
| ~ Central Asia/S Central Asia | | 2a 2d | | # |
| <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> | | | | |
| ~ Caspian, Central Asia (non-br) | | 2 | | # |
| <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> | | | | |
| ~ Caspian (non-br) | 1c | | | # |
| <i>Anser fabalis johanseni</i> | | | | |
| ~ Urals to Lake Baikal/Central Asia (Turkmenistan to west China) | | 1 | | # |
| <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i> | | | | |
| ~ Caspian, Iraq, Iran (non-br) | 2 | | | # |
| <i>Anser erythropus</i> | | | | |
| ~ N Eur & W Sib/B Sea & Caspian | 1a 1b 2 | | | # |
| <i>Anser anser rubrirostris</i> | | | | |
| ~ W Siberia/Caspian & Iraq (non-br) | | | 1 | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | 2 | | | |
| <i>Anser indicus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ Central/Southern Asia | | 1 | | |
| <i>Branta ruficollis</i> | | | | |
| ~ N Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian | 1a 1b 3a | | | # |
| <i>Tadorna ferruginea*</i> | | | | |
| ~ W Asia, Caspian, Iran, Iraq | | 1 | | # |

| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWA |
|--|----------|----|-----|--------------------|
| ~ S & SE Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | | | | |
| ~ Caspian, SW Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Sarkidiornis melanotus melanotus</i> | | | | |
| ~ S & SE Asia | 1c | | | |
| <i>Nettapus coromandelianus coromandelianus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ South Asia | | 2 | | |
| <i>Anas penelope</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & NE Africa (non-br) | | 2c | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Anas falcata</i> | | | | |
| ~C & E Asia (NE India) | 3c | | | |
| <i>Anas strepera strepera</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & NE Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Anas crecca crecca</i> | | | | |
| ~ W Sib/SW Asia & NE Africa | | | 1 | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*</i> | | | | |
| ~ Southwest Asia (non-br) | | 2c | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 2 | | |
| <i>Anas poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha*</i> | | | | |
| ~ Southern Asia | | 2 | | |
| <i>Anas acuta</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & NE Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | (1) | |
| <i>Anas querquedula</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & NE Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | (1) | |
| <i>Anas clypeata</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, NE & E Africa (non-br) | | 2c | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | (1) | |
| <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i> | | | | |
| ~ Southwest Asia | 1a 1b 2 | | | # |
| ~ South Asia | 1a 1b 2 | | | |
| <i>Netta rufina</i> | | | | |
| ~ Central & SW Asia (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Aythya ferina</i> | | | | |
| ~ Southwest Asia (non-br) | | 2c | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | (1) | |
| <i>Aythya baeri</i> | | | | |
| ~ C, E, SE & S Asia | 1b 2 | | | |
| <i>Aythya nyroca</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & NE Africa (non-br) | 1a 3c | | | # |
| ~ S, E & SE Asia (non-br) | 1a 3a 3c | | | |
| <i>Aythya fuligula</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & NE Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |

| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWA |
|--|----------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| ~ S & C Asia (non-br) | | | (1) | |
| <i>Aythya marila marila</i> | | | | |
| ~ Black & Caspian Seas (incl. S Asia, non-br) | | | 1 | # |
| <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> | | | | |
| ~ Western Siberia, N Europe (br) | | | 1 | # |
| <i>Melanitta fusca fusca</i> | | | | |
| ~ Black Sea (non-br) | 1c | | | # |
| <i>Bucephala clangula clangula</i> | | | | |
| ~ Caspian Sea (non-br) | 2 | | | # |
| <i>Mergellus albellus</i> | | | | |
| ~ C & SW Asia | 3c | | | # |
| <i>Mergus serrator serrator</i> * | | | | |
| ~ SW & Central Asia | 1c | | | # |
| <i>Mergus merganser merganser</i> * | | | | |
| ~ Caspian Sea (non-br) | 2 | | | # |
| <i>Mergus merganser orientalis (comatus)</i> * | | | | |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | 1c | | | |
| <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> | | | | |
| ~ E Med & SW Asia | 1a 1b 1c | | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | 1a 1b 1c | | | |
| | | | | |
| GRUIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Grus virgo</i> | | | | |
| ~ W Central Asia (br) /Indian Subcontinent | 3b | | | |
| ~ E Asia (br)/Indian Subcontinent | 3b | | | |
| <i>Grus leucogeranus</i> | | | | |
| ~ Iran (non-br) | 1a 1b 1c | | | # |
| ~ India (non-br) | 1a 1b 1c | | | |
| <i>Grus grus grus</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & NE Africa (non-br) | 1b 3c | | | # |
| ~ (lilfordi) India (non-br) | 1b 3c | | | |
| <i>Grus nigricollis</i> * | | | | |
| ~ C & S Asia (Yunnan/Tibet/Bhutan/N India) | 1b 1c 3a 3c | | | |
| | | | | |
| RALLIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Rallina eurizinoides</i> * | | | | |
| ~ <i>amauroptera</i> S Asia | | (1) | | |
| <i>Gallirallus striatus</i> | | | | |
| ~ <i>albiventer</i> S Asia | | (1) | | |
| <i>Rallus aquaticus aquaticus</i> * | | | | |
| ~ W Europe, N Africa, SW Asia to Turkmenistan (non-br) | | | (1) | |
| <i>Rallus aquaticus korejewi</i> * | | | | |
| ~ C Asia/Arabia, NW India (non-br) | | (1) | | |
| <i>Rallus aquaticus indicus</i> * | | | | |
| ~ NE India, N, SE & E Asia (non-br) | | (1) | | |
| <i>Crex crex</i> | | | | |
| ~ W&NW Europe E to NW China & Central Siberia | 1a 3d | | | |
| <i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> * | | | | |
| ~ S, E & SE Asia/SW Asia | | | (1) | |

| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWAs |
|--|-------|-----|-----|---------------------|
| <i>Porzana parva parva</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, E & W Africa, Mediterranean (non-br) | | 2c | | |
| <i>Porzana parva (illustris)</i> | | | | |
| ~ Central Asia/W Pakistan, NW India (non-br) | | (1) | | |
| <i>Porzana pusilla*</i> | | | | |
| ~ C & E Russia, Central Asia/S, SE Asia | | | (1) | |
| <i>Porzana porzana</i> | | | | |
| ~ S Asia (non-br) | | | (1) | |
| <i>Porzana fusca*</i> | | | | |
| ~ Pakistan, N India to Yunnan, SE Asia | | (1) | | |
| <i>Gallinula chloropus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ S Asia (non-br) | | | (1) | |
| <i>Fulica atra atra*</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | # |
| ~ S Asia (non-br) | | | (1) | |
| | | | | |
| HELIORNITHIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Heliopais personata</i> | | | | |
| ~ S & SE Asia (NE India, Bangladesh, SE to Vietnam, Malaysia, Sumatra) | 1b 1c | | | |
| | | | | |
| JACANIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ S & SE Asia to China | 2 | | | |
| | | | | |
| DROMADIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Dromas ardeola</i> | | | | |
| ~ NW Ind Ocean, Red Sea & Gulf | 3a | | | # |
| | | | | |
| HEMATOPODIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Haematopus ostralegus longipes*</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW, S Asia & NE Africa (non-br) | | | 1 | # |
| | | | | |
| IBIDORHYNCHIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i> | | | | |
| ~ Central Asia | (2) | | | |
| | | | | |
| RECURVIROSTRIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Himantopus himantopus himantopus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ Southwest Asia (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| ~ Southern Asia | | | 1 | |
| <i>Recurvirostra avosetta*</i> | | | | |
| ~ W, SW Asia & Eastern Africa | 2 | | | # |
| ~ Central & South Asia | | 1 | | |
| | | | | |
| GLAREOLIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Glareola pratincola pratincola</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia (br) | 1 | | | # |

| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWA |
|--|----------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| <i>Glareola maldivarum</i> | | | | |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Glareola nordmanni</i> | | | | |
| ~E Europe-Central Asia | 3 | | | |
| CHARADRIIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | | | | |
| ~ West Asia (br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | 2 | | | |
| <i>Vanellus cinereus</i> | | | | |
| ~ E, SE and S Asia (NE India, Bangladesh, Nepal, SE and E Asia - non-br) | 2 | | | |
| <i>Vanellus gregarius</i> | | | | |
| ~ Southern Russia & Kazakhstan /NE Africa | 1a 1b 1c | | | # |
| ~ Southern Russia & Kazakhstan /South Asia | 1a 1b 1c | | | # |
| <i>Vanellus leucurus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & NE Africa (non-br) | 2 | | | # |
| ~ S Asia (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> | | | | |
| ~ N-Central Siberia (br)/Caspian Region, Asia Minor | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Pluvialis fulva</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW, S Asia & E Africa (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW, S Asia & Eastern Africa (non-br) | | 1 | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | | | | |
| ~ <i>tundrae</i> SW Asia & East Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| <i>Charadrius placidus</i> | | | | |
| ~ E, S & SE Asia (non-br) | 1c | | | |
| <i>Charadrius dubius curonicus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ W & SW Asia, E Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ C & E Asia (non-br) | | | (1) | |
| <i>Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & Africa (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| ~ S Asia (non-br) | | (1) | | |
| <i>Charadrius mongolus mongolus</i> | | | | |
| ~ E Asia, S & SE Asia (non-br) | | (1) | | |
| <i>Charadrius mongolus pamirensis</i> | | | | |
| ~ Central Asia/India, SW Asia & SE Africa (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii</i> | | | | |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Charadrius leschenaultii crassirostris</i> | | | | |
| ~ Asia & Eastern Africa (non-br) | 1c | | | # |
| <i>Charadrius asiaticus</i> | | | | |
| ~ W N & E Caspian E to E Kazakstan, NW China (br) | 3 | | | |
| <i>Eudromias morinellus</i> | | | | |
| ~ Siberia, Cenral Asia (br)/SW Asia E to W Iran | | (1) | | # |

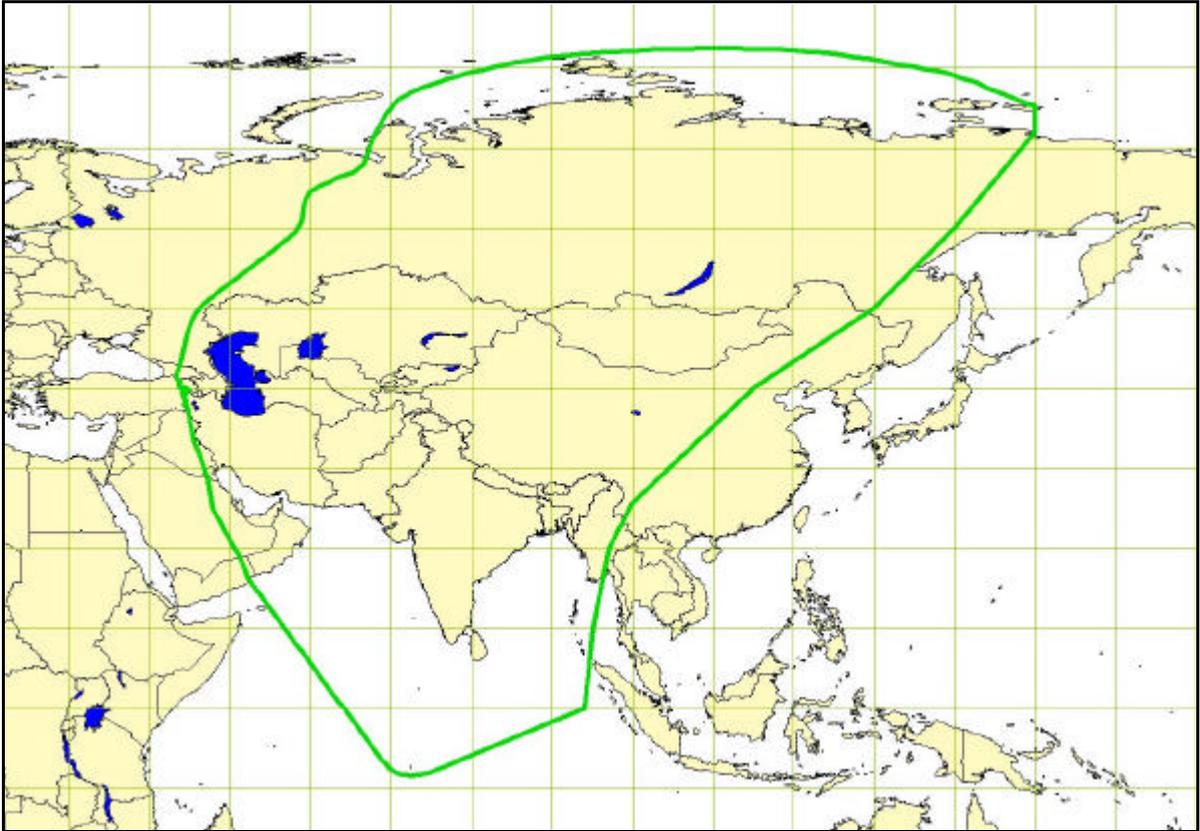
| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWA |
|--|----------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| SCOLOPACIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> | | | | |
| ~ W Asia (br)/SW Asia (Caspian region) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ C & E Asia (br)/ N India, Indochina-SE China | | | (1) | |
| <i>Gallinago solitaria solitaria</i> | | | | |
| ~ Northern S/SE Asia | | 1 | | |
| <i>Gallinago nemoricola</i> | | | | |
| ~ S & SE Asia (NW India eastwards) | 1b 1c | | | |
| <i>Gallinago stenura</i> | | | | |
| ~ S Asia & East Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| <i>Gallinago megala</i> | | | | |
| ~ S, SE & E Asia & N Australia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Gallinago gallinago gallinago</i> | | | | |
| ~ West Siberia (br) | | 2c | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i> | | | | |
| ~ W Siberia (br) | | (1) | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | (1c) | | | |
| <i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i> | | | | |
| ~ C & E Asia (br) / E India, SE Asia | 2 | | | |
| <i>Limosa limosa limosa</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & E C Africa (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Limosa limosa melanuroides</i> | | | | |
| ~ South Asia, SE Asia, Australasia (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Limosa lapponica taymyrensis</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW, S Asia & E Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| <i>Numenius phaeopus phaeopus</i> | | | | |
| ~ W Siberia (br) | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Numenius phaeopus variegatus</i> | | | | |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i> | | | | |
| ~ Mediterranean pop (non-br), Morocco, Persian Gulf | 1a 1b 1c | | | # |
| <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> | | | | |
| ~ W Europe, NW Africa, Med, E to Persian Gulf (non-br) | | | 1 | # |
| <i>Numenius arquata orientalis</i> | | | | |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Tringa erythropus</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & E Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | 2 | | | |
| <i>Tringa totanus</i> | | | | |
| ~ <i>ussuriensis</i> SW Asia & E Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ <i>ussuriensis</i> S & SE Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| ~ <i>eurhinus</i> India, Sri Lanka (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, E & S Africa (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | | | | |

| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWA |
|---|----------|-------|-----|--------------------|
| ~ SW Asia, E & S Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Tringa guttifer</i> | | | | |
| ~ India, SE & E Asia (non-br) | 1a 1b 1c | | | |
| <i>Tringa ochropus</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & East Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Tringa glareola</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, E & S Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Tringa (Xenus) cinerea</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & Africa (non-br) | | | 1 | # |
| ~ India (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Tringa (Actitis) hypoleucos*</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, E & S Africa (non-br) | | | 1 | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, E & S Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & W S Asia (non-br) | 1c | | | # |
| <i>Calidris canutus canutus</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW & S Africa, SW Asia to NW India (non-br) | | 2a 2c | | # |
| <i>Calidris canutus piersmai</i> | | | | |
| ~ Sri Lanka, S India, Australia, New Zealand | (1c) | | | |
| <i>Calidris alba</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, E & S Africa (non-br) | | | 1 | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Calidris ruficollis*</i> | | | | |
| ~ NE Siberia (br)/ E India, Sri Lanka, SE & E Asia to Australasia | | | 1 | |
| <i>Calidris minuta</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, E & S Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Calidris temminckii</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, E Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Calidris subminuta</i> | | | | |
| ~ E India, Sri Lanka, SE & E Asia to Australia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | | | | |
| ~ E & S Africa, SW Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & NE Africa (non-br) | | | 1 | # |
| <i>Calidris alpina centralis</i> | | | | |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus</i> | | | | |

| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWA |
|---|----------|------|-----|--------------------|
| ~ NE Siberia (br)/ SE India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar? (non-br) | 1a 1b 1c | | | |
| <i>Limicola falcinellus falcinellus</i> | | | | |
| ~Coasts of Arabian Pen., E & S Africa, India, Sri Lanka | 3c | | | # |
| <i>Limicola falcinellus sibirica</i> | | | | |
| ~ Coasts of India, SE Asia, Australasia | (2) | | | |
| <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, E & S Africa (non-br) | | (2c) | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> | | | | |
| ~ NW Eurasia (br)/ Pelagic, NW Arabian Sea | | | 1 | # |
| | | | | |
| LARIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Larus hemprichii</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, Gulfs of Persia, Oman, Aden, Red Sea & Eastern Africa (non-br) | | 2a | | # |
| <i>Larus canus heinei</i> | | | | |
| ~ SE Eur, Black and Caspian Seas (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| <i>Larus argentatus</i> | | | | |
| ~ <i>mongolicus</i> China and India | | (1) | | |
| <i>Larus heuglini heuglini</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, S to E Afr & NW India, Sri Lanka (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| <i>Larus heuglini barabensis</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia, mainly shores of Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| <i>Larus armenicus</i> | | | | |
| ~ SE Europe, SW Asia | 3a | | | # |
| <i>Larus cachinnans cachinnans</i> | | | | |
| ~ SE Europe, SW Asia | | | 1 | # |
| <i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i> | | | | |
| ~ E Africa S to Tanzania (+few SW Asia) | | (2c) | | # |
| <i>Larus ichthyaetus</i> | | | | |
| ~ E Europe, W Asia | 3a | | | # |
| ~ Central Asia (br) /coastal S Asia & Myanmar (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Larus brunnicephalus</i> | | | | |
| ~ Coasts of Arabian Peninsula, E to S Asia Indochina & S China (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia & Eastern Africa (non-br) | | | (1) | # |
| ~ S Asia (non-br) | | | 1 | |
| <i>Larus genei</i> | | | | |
| ~ W, SW & S Asia (br) | | 2a | | # |
| <i>Larus relictus</i> | | | | |
| ~ C Asia (br) | 2 | | | |
| <i>Larus minutus</i> | | | | |
| ~ Black, Caspian & E Med. Sea (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Sterna nilotica nilotica</i> | | | | |
| ~ SW Asia (non-br) | 2 | | | # |
| ~ S Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |

| Species | A | B | C | Pop. Incl. in AEWA |
|--|------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| <i>Sterna caspia</i> * | | | | |
| ~ Europe (br)/Med., W,N&E Africa, SW Asia | 1c | | | |
| ~ Caspian (br) / SW Asia & NE Africa | 2 | | | # |
| ~ South Asia (non-br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Sterna bengalensis bengalensis</i> | | | | |
| ~ Gulf/Southern Asia | | 2a | | # |
| <i>Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis</i> | | | | |
| ~ Caspian(br)/ coastal Persian Gulf & S Red Sea to S Asia (non-br) | | 2a | | # |
| <i>Sterna bergii velox</i> | | | | |
| ~ Arabian Gulf & Indian Ocean (br)/ Indian Ocean Kenya to Myanmar | | | (1) | # |
| <i>Sterna dougallii korustes</i> | | | | |
| ~ Sri Lanka & Indian Islands (br)/Indian & Pacific Oceans (non-br) | 1c | | | |
| <i>Sterna dougallii bangsi</i> | | | | |
| ~ Arabian Sea (islands of Oman) br /Indian Ocean (non-br) | 1c | | | # |
| <i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i> | | | | |
| ~ W Asia (br) | | | (1) | # |
| <i>Sterna hirundo tibetana</i> * | | | | |
| ~ Turkestan & Tibet (br) | | 1 | | |
| <i>Sterna hirundo minussensis</i> | | | | |
| ~ Central Asia, N Mongolia & S.Tibet (br)/mostly N Indian Ocean | | | 1 | |
| <i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i> * | | | | |
| ~ E Europe (br) / Red Sea, Arabia, E Africa | 3c | | | # |
| ~ SW & S Asia (br) / Arabian Gulf & Indian Ocean | 3b | | | |
| <i>Sterna albifrons pusilla</i> * | | | | |
| ~ Indian Ocean & SE Asia (non-br) | 3c | | | # |
| <i>Sterna saundersii</i> | | | | |
| ~ N & W Indian Ocean, Red Sea (br) | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Sterna repressa</i> | | | | |
| ~ N & W Indian Ocean, Red Sea (br) | | 2c | | # |
| <i>Chlidonias hybridus hybridus</i> | | | | |
| ~ Central Asia (br)/ Iran-Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka (non-br) | | (1) | | # |
| <i>Chlidonias hybridus indicus</i> * | | | | |
| ~ E Iran, Pakistan, N India (br) | (3a) | | | |
| <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> | | | | |
| ~ S & E Europe (br) / sub-Saharan Africa, Persian Gulf | | | (1) | # |
| ~ Asia, Australasia - India, Sri Lanka, Indochina, to Australasia | | (1) | | |
| | | | | |
| RHYNCHOPIDAE | | | | |
| <i>Rynchops albicollis</i> | | | | |
| ~ S & SE Asia | 1c | | | |

Annex I: Indicative Map of the Central Asian Flyway Region



The boundaries depicted on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UNEP/CMS



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



MEETING TO CONCLUDE AND ENDORSE THE PROPOSED CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION PLAN TO CONSERVE MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

New Delhi, 10-12 June 2005

CMS/CAF/Report
Annex 5

NEW DELHI STATEMENT ON THE MEETING TO CONCLUDE AND ENDORSE THE PROPOSED CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION PLAN TO CONSERVE MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

New Delhi, 10-12 June 2005

1. The Meeting to Conclude and Endorse the Proposed Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats, held in New Delhi, India, from 10-12 June 2005, was attended by nearly 100 participants from the following Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF): Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and Yemen, and representatives of the United States of America, African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), Central Asian Regional Environment Centre (Kazakhstan), BirdLife International, International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), International Crane Foundation, Wetlands International, and a number of national non-governmental organisations and institutions, including Bombay Natural History Society, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, and Wildlife Protection Society of India's Indian Cranes and Wetlands Working Group. Range States from the CAF region not in attendance were Bahrain, Georgia, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.
2. The Meeting was organised by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), in cooperation with Wetlands International. Wetlands International also provided technical advice to the CMS Secretariat and in-kind support to the meeting.
3. The Meeting expressed its sincere gratitude to the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests for hosting the event with organisational support from the Wildlife Institute of India.
4. It also expressed its thanks for the generous financial contributions provided by the Governments of India, the Netherlands and Switzerland, as well as CMS, AEWA, the Global Environment Facility, and the UNEP Regional Offices for West Asia, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe (Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Strategy).

5. The Meeting was officially inaugurated by Honourable Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of India, Thiru A. Raja, in the presence of Mr. Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Secretary of the same Ministry, Mr Douglas Hykle, Senior Advisor, Convention on Migratory Species, Mrs. Désirée Bonis, Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Netherlands Embassy and Mr. Ward Hagemeyer, Head of Biodiversity and Ecological Networks, Wetlands International.

6. Mr. R.P.S Katwal, Additional Director General, Wildlife, the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests, was elected to chair the Meeting.

7. The CAF covers a large continental area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans and associated island chains. The Flyway comprises several important waterbird migration routes, most of which extend from the northernmost breeding grounds in Russia (Siberia) to the southernmost non-breeding (wintering) grounds in West and South Asia, the Maldives and the British Indian Ocean Territory.

8. The CAF covers at least 182 migratory waterbird species, including 29 globally threatened and near-threatened species that breed, migrate and spend the non-breeding (winter) period within the region. These waterbirds use a wide variety of habitats during their annual cycle. This continental flyway comprises large semi-arid habitats with a limited number of wetlands, particularly in the staging areas. Different groups of migratory waterbirds appear to overlap considerably in the usage of important sites. Many of the wetlands are situated in areas with dense human populations where they provide many goods and services to the people, but where they are increasingly being unsustainably exploited by humans. Thus the management of these wetlands to secure the provision of these goods and services requires coordinated multi-sectoral planning and implementation to realise the needs of local people and biodiversity conservation.

9. Many countries along the CAF have developing or transitional economies with inadequate allocation of resources for conservation and for involvement of local stakeholders in sustainable management of wetlands. In addition, changes in political systems and instability in some countries, language and other barriers may not have enabled strong cooperation among some flyway countries.

10. The wetlands and other habitats on which the waterbirds depend are consequently very threatened along the CAF, and therefore in need of internationally agreed and co-ordinated and science-based conservation measures, ensuring sustainable benefits to people as well as survival of species and habitats.

11. The New Delhi Meeting was the second meeting of the CAF Range States since they first met in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 2001, to discuss a draft action plan for the CAF to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

12. The New Delhi Meeting had four primary meeting objectives: (1) to provide Range State delegations with an overview of flyway conservation issues; (2) to finalise and endorse the draft CAF Action Plan; (3) to consider, prioritise and endorse selected implementation activities, and lay the basis for exploring and possibly establishing an interim coordination mechanism; and (4) to develop a consensus on their preferred option for a legal and institutional framework for the CAF region.

13. (1) A series of technical presentations provided an overview of flyways and global and regional frameworks for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation, a review of migration strategies of waterbirds in the CAF, the International Waterbird Census programme, the Important Bird Area programme, a case study of national habitat inventory for migratory waterbirds in India and the CMS MoU on Siberian Crane and related UNEP GEF Project.

14. (2) The draft CAF Action Plan text was carefully discussed and amended by the Meeting. A number of new action points were introduced. One piece of outstanding information is awaited from the Russian Federation regarding populations of waterbirds to be included in Table 2, and it was confirmed that this information would be provided to the CMS Secretariat within 2 months of the Meeting's closure. It was agreed that the Action Plan would be circulated by the CMS Secretariat to the Range States for final review and comment prior to its adoption at a future intergovernmental meeting.

15. (3) A list of seven priority international project concepts to support and inform implementation of the CAF Action Plan was reviewed by the Meeting. The Meeting strongly supported the need to implement projects to (a) prepare a directory of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds in the CAF; (b) develop a monitoring strategy and strengthen capacity for monitoring waterbirds in the CAF, (c) prepare a flyway status overview of national and international conservation aspects of migratory waterbirds and their habitats as a basis for cooperative conservation action, (d) prepare a flyway overview of the status and trends of waterbird populations to determine future monitoring and conservation priorities, and (e) establish a flyway network of key contacts and collate an international register of waterbird and habitat projects. There was also agreement on the need to develop a medium-term Flyway Strategic Plan to support implementation of the Action Plan. Three additional priorities were proposed by the Meeting, including the development of single species action plans for threatened species, an awareness programme and common framework for inventory of wetlands. The CMS and AEWA Secretariats were invited to consider the priorities of the Meeting in initiating development of flyway activities to support implementation of the Action Plan. The CMS Secretariat was also invited to further explore with Range States, AEWA and other potential partners, the concept of an interim coordination mechanism to initially support the implementation of the Action Plan, once adopted.

16. (4) The Range States present were invited to provide an indication of their Government's or Ministry's preference to link the Action Plan under discussion either to a legally-binding or non-binding instrument. Of the 23 delegations present, twelve were in a position to express an official view – in most instances reflecting the position of their Ministry, rather than a Government position. It was recognized that the opinions expressed were to be considered preliminary and non-binding, and that they might change after further inter-ministerial consultations. Most of the countries represented had not initiated such consultations with other relevant Ministries prior to the meeting.

17. Delegations expressing an official view were nearly unanimous in their preference for a legally-binding instrument and, of these, there was near unanimity for the Action Plan to be integrated with the existing African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). An informal poll of the remaining delegations also suggested a general tendency in favour of a legally-binding instrument, with the Action Plan linked to the AEWA. Three delegations expressed, officially or unofficially, a preference for the Action Plan to be linked to a non-binding memorandum of understanding.

18. While the conclusions of the Meeting provide clear guidance for exploring the AEWA-linked option in more depth, it was noted that an official view was still awaited from 18 of the Range States concerned, and most of the others had still to confirm their position on a Government level. The legal, technical and other ramifications of the approach garnering the most support warrant further investigation in the coming months by both the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, as well as detailed consideration by their respective governing bodies when they meet towards the end of 2005.

19. The Meeting participants reiterated their heartfelt thanks to the Indian Government for the excellent arrangements for the Meeting, which were conducive to a congenial and efficient work environment.