

REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE  
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF  
AFRICAN-EURASIAN WATERBIRDS (AEWA)  
TO THE 23rd MEETING OF THE CMS STANDING COMMITTEE,  
BONN, 13-14 DECEMBER 2001

The AEWA is developing well in terms of members and the implementation of the Action Plan. The secretariat is co-located with and administratively integrated into the CMS Secretariat and UNEP. The Technical Committee recently met in Tour du Valat, France. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Arusha, Tanzania, at the end of May 2002.

Currently the Agreement has 33 Parties. The International Implementation Priorities AEWA 2000-2004, adopted at the MOP1 in Cape Town, are well underway to be implemented. During 2001 funds have been received for studies on the Impact of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa, impact of Marine Fisheries on Migratory Waterbirds, Rehabilitation of sites degraded by invasive species of aquatic weeds, development of guidelines on National Legislation for Migratory Waterbirds, Development of international species Action Plans, implementation of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Management Plan, etc. Worth of special mention is the development during the PDF-B phase of the African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project. By the end of 2001/beginning 2002 the full size brief for this project will be submitted to the GEF Secretariat. If the application will be successful the project, with a total costs of USD 12 million, will receive an amount up to USD 6 million from GEF; the remaining funds will have to be secured through matching funds. This project will certainly make a big difference for the implementation of the AEWA Agreement, RAMSAR and CBD Conventions, and possibly also for the Bern Convention.

Within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ramsar Bureau and CMS Secretariat, a Joint Work Programme among the CMS and AEWA secretariats and the Ramsar Bureau for the years 2002-2003 is being elaborated. At the time of writing, a draft is being consulted within the Ramsar Bureau. The document is expected to be finalized by the beginning of December 2001, to be ready for endorsed by the Standing Committees of CMS and Ramsar, both meeting in December 2001.

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