



**CONVENTION ON
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Agenda Item 11.5

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

Summary:

The Secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, a report provided by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).

The report is provided unedited in the format and language that it was submitted.

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

(Prepared by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat)



1. The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds was negotiated under the auspices of CMS and the final text was adopted on 16 June 1995. AEWA will celebrate its 25th Anniversary this year in June.
2. Since CMS COP12, five new Parties have joined AEWA, namely Botswana on 1 November 2017, the Central African Republic on 1 January 2019, the Republic of Serbia on 01 March 2019 and the Republic of Malawi on 1 September 2019, bringing the total number of Parties to 80.
3. The African preparatory meeting for the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) to AEWA (pre-MOP7) was held in Ezulwini in September 2018 at the kind invitation of the Government of Eswatini.
4. MOP7 was held in Durban on 4 - 8 December 2018 at the kind invitation of the Government of South Africa. The report of the meeting is available at: https://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/document/AEWA%20MOP7%20Consolidated%20Report_FINAL_update%2011%20July%202019.pdf.
5. MOP7 has adopted the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027, which clearly shape flyway conservation for the future beyond 2020. It provides the framework for implementation of the Agreement by the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Technical Committee, Secretariat and partners. MOP7 also adopted the work programme of the Technical Committee.
6. The present report to CMS COP13 focuses on common issues between CMS and AEWA; for an overview of all AEWA activities, please refer to the MOP7 report.

7. Through AEWA Resolution 6.22 on “Synergies Between the UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS”, the Meeting of the Parties acknowledged the establishment of a CMS/AEWA Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising (IMCA) Unit as a pilot for common services in January 2014. MOP7 endorsed the report on the IMCA team presented by the Standing Committee and the four following recommendations:
- a. The UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats continue to work collaboratively along the lines of the agreed principals to manage and guide the Joint Unit in its day-to-day work.
 - b. The AEWA Standing Committee would like to recommend to CMS Parties to financially support the upgrade of the position of the coordinator of the common unit.
 - c. The UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats should continue the practice of cost sharing, work planning and time tracking for the Joint Unit in the coming triennium.
 - d. The AEWA Standing Committee recommends a continuation on a permanent basis of the shared service arrangement, in the area of Information Management, Communications and Awareness-raising between the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats.

This common unit of the two Secretariats has allowed staff members in the unit to specialize in different areas, which in turn has improved the efficiency of the overall CMS Family communication work; the unit produces more with the same human resources. The World Migratory Bird Day campaign, which is co-organised by the CMS and AEWA Secretariats and The Environment for the Americas (now with two peak days in May and October), is a major achievement of the common unit.

8. 6. Following COP decisions, CMS is leading in some of the existing programmatic synergies between AEWA and CMS, which has allowed to broaden the mandate on these items under the Convention. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is, however, still involved in all relevant Task Forces. For example, as a member of the CMS Multi-stakeholder Energy Task Force, the AEWA Secretariat participated in the fourth meeting on 19 - 20 September 2019 in Paris. As a member of the CMS Illegal Killing Task Force, the AEWA Secretariat participated actively in the third MIKT meeting on 8 - 10 May 2019 in Roma. And to give a last example of these programmatic synergies, on 16 - 17 March 2019, the Secretariat also participated in a meeting of the CMS African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan AEMLAP (Peterborough, UK), concentrating on habitat conservation and land-use issues. AEMLAP complements the conservation agenda within the African-Eurasian region, with AEWA focusing on sites and habitats and the CMS Raptors MoU on migratory bottlenecks. This allows for better integration of conservation work into agriculture, energy and other areas of development. Finally, the AEWA Secretariat leads the process on lead ammunition on behalf of the CMS Family being the expert for wildlife for the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).
9. The CMS and AEWA Secretariats collaborate on a day-to-day basis, e.g. on common procurement or sharing equipment. The Secretariats, moreover, support each other before and during MOPs and COPs by allocating part of their team to support the meeting.
10. Among collaborations with other flyways, the AEWA Secretariat continued to contribute to the implementation of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), established under the Arctic Council’s biodiversity-related working group CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna). The Secretariat serves on the Steering Group for the African-Eurasian flyway and attended the Arctic Seabirds Experts Meeting on 26 - 29 March 2019 in Iceland. Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of the Science, Implementation and Compliance unit at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat has been nominated as a member of the Technical Committee of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) in March 2018.

11. Five International Species Action and Management Plans were adopted at MOP7, and one retired, bringing the total of Action and Management Plans to 29 including the Multi-Species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds. Two of them are also CMS and European Union action plans:
 - a. The International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) also endorsed by the EAAFP
 - b. The International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*).

12. On the item of sustainable use of natural resources, in 2016, the AEWA Secretariat established an ambitious programme: the European Goose Management Platform. This platform addresses the conservation and management of declining, as well as growing, goose populations in Europe by a coordinated flyway approach amongst all Range States concerned. The goal of the EGMP is to provide the mechanism for a structured, coordinated and inclusive decision-making and implementation process for the sustainable use and management of goose populations, with the objective of maintaining them at a favourable conservation status, while taking into account concerns of relevant stakeholders and the pertinent legislative frameworks and regulations. The EGMP used for its modelling the adaptive harvest management approach. The coordination of the AEWA European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) is facilitated by the EGMP Coordinator based at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in close collaboration with Aarhus University, functioning as the EGMP Data Centre. Under the coordination of the EGMP Data Centre, the International Modelling Consortium, consisting of an international partnership of scientific institutions, collaborates on the development of population models. The EGMP has 15 participants Range States, 14 national governments and the European Commission: Belarus, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. The 5th Meeting of the EGM International Working Group is scheduled to take place on 16 - 18 June 2020, in Helsinki, Finland. Funding towards the functioning the EGMP, including the staffing costs as well as the implementation of projects has been jointly provided by the EGMP Range States.

13. The 8th Meeting of the Parties (MOP8) will be hosted by the Government of Hungary on 5 - 9 October 2021.

14. Finally, the Secretariat would like to thank all Governments and organisations that have provided voluntary contributions to AEWA: Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, the UK, the European Commission and the Hellenic Ornithological Society. The Secretariat was requested through Resolution 7.12 “to endeavour compiling a list of all in-kind contributions received in support of meetings, workshops and other projects (co-)organised by the Secretariat to be published through the Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues in 2019-2021. For 2019, the Secretariat would like to thank for their in-kind contributions Benin, France, Iceland, Romania, Uganda, the United Kingdom and South Africa.