



CMS/AEWA/Raptor MoU Southern African Workshop on
Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds

24 August 2015



The Southern African Workshop on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds

Cape Town, South Africa

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Thanks to the Organizers and to all funding bodies

- Host country: Government of South Africa
- CMS Secretariat
- AEWA
- CMS Raptors MoU
- European Commission

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Aim of the meeting:

Draft a strategy on how to best implement the global guidelines adopted in CMS Resolution 11.15 at COP11 - Quito, Ecuador – November 2014

Attended by 10 countries from the southern African region



Five main categories of toxins identified as most likely to affect migratory bird populations

1. Insecticides used to protect crops
2. Rodenticides used to protect crops
3. Poison-baits used for predator control and harvesting
4. Veterinary pharmaceuticals used to treat livestock
5. Lead ammunition and fishing weights

Challenge - working together to implement a process leading to the solution of all 5 within one of the globally most biodiverse regions in the world!



Insecticides

- **Non-legislative**

- Increased capacity, awareness and improved skills
- Establish Wildlife Anti-poisoning forums (National and Regional)

- **Legislative**

- Engage with other government departments to restrict the import of **legal** pesticides
- Engage with other government departments to restrict the import of **illegal** pesticides
- Control and dispose of existing stocks of banned substances
- Enhance law enforcement in terms of poisoning events
- Determine and enhance existing policies on the control of the use of substances
- Advocate viable and safer alternatives to the use of insecticides



Rodenticides

- Expand available documents on best practice for rodent control
- Advocate the benefits of alternatives to anticoagulant rodenticides
- Integration of traditional measures for the control of gerbils
- Education on waste management to reduce the need for rodent control
- Review registration of rodenticides



Poison Baits

- Collate all information on poisoning incidents at a national level – regional database
- Increased capacity, awareness and means to investigate poisoning events to identify toxins and quantify the extent of loss
- Enhancement of enforcement at poisoning events, whether indiscriminate or deliberate
- Promote implementation of Norms and Standards for Damage Causing Animals
- Restricted access to availability of highly toxic substances
- Promote sustainable farming to resolve human-wildlife conflict using multi-stakeholder forums
- Stakeholder engagement around traditional beliefs and human health



Veterinary Pharmaceuticals

- Continue to prohibit the use of diclofenac and other veterinary pharmaceuticals listed in the region
- Enhance surveillance of animal carcasses (not only ungulate carcasses)
- Raising stakeholder awareness
- Introduce mandatory safety-testing of NSAIDS



Lead Ammunition and Fishing Weights

- Raise awareness of lead poisoning originating from lead ammunition
- Phase-out the use of lead ammunition across all habitats – hunting, culling
- Raise awareness amongst different stakeholders of lead poisoning from fishing weights
- Promote responsible disposal of paint sweepings containing discarded lead during ship painting in dry docks
- Promote the use of lead-free paints





Common Issues and Activities

- **Enact legal steps / Policy review:** All toxins
- **Awareness Raising Activities:** All toxins
- **Undertake surveys:** All toxins
- **Find substitutes, restrict access, change application periods:** Insecticides, Veterinary Pharmaceuticals
- **Focus on all agricultural areas (Rotterdam Convention):** Rodenticides, Insecticides



The Way Forward

- Draft list of actions per country
- Implementation of guidelines regionally – responsibility of each country in the region
- Engage with countries and government departments not represented at meeting
- South Africa nominated to take the lead in implementation regionally – accepted conditionally
- Replicate the model for implementation elsewhere in Africa and further a-field



The time to act is



NOW!

