

**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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**MINIMIZING THE RISK OF POISONING TO MIGRATORY BIRDS**

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Tenth Meeting  
(Bergen, 20-25 November 2011)

*Recognizing* that, under Article II of the Convention, Party Range States agree to take action for the conservation of migratory species whenever possible and appropriate, paying special attention to migratory species, the conservation status of which is unfavourable, and taking individually or in cooperation appropriate and necessary steps to conserve such species and their habitats;

*Recognizing* that Article II of the Convention requires all Parties to take action to avoid any migratory species becoming endangered and, in particular, to endeavour to provide immediate protection for migratory species listed in Appendix I to the Convention;

*Recognizing* that Article III (4) (b) of the Convention requires Parties to endeavour *inter alia* to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of migratory species;

*Concerned* by the information presented in document UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.40 to the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties regarding the worldwide impact of poisoning causing lethal and detrimental sub-lethal effects on wildlife, including migratory species;

*Recognizing* the actions undertaken by the AEWAs Parties and AEWAs Secretariat to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands across the Agreement area;

*Noting* that a considerable number of migratory bird species that are significantly affected by poisoning through poison baits, rodenticides, heavy metals (notably lead), aquatic poisons and agrochemicals are listed in the Appendices to the Convention;

*Concerned* that such species are increasingly threatened by continuing poisoning;

*Concerned particularly* that, without action to minimize poisoning, many populations and potentially species may be severely affected; and

*Desiring* to raise awareness among the public, land users and decision-makers of the serious, widespread risk posed to birds by poisons;

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Calls on* Parties to the Convention, non-Party Range States and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, to engage in co-operative activities to address poisoning of migratory birds;
2. *Calls on* the Scientific Council and Secretariat to establish, under the Scientific Council, an intersessional working group to work primarily electronically to undertake a detailed assessment of:
  - 2.1 the scope and severity of poisoning for migratory bird species globally and how this varies geographically and across taxa;
  - 2.2 significant knowledge gaps, either across Range States, or in specific areas; and
  - 2.3 where sufficient evidence exists, to recommend suitable responses to address the problems, potentially including:
    - 2.3.1 areas where enhanced legislation may be required;
    - 2.3.2 features of effective regulatory regimes; and
    - 2.3.3 understanding of socio-economic drivers of poisoning;
3. *Decides* that the working group should seek to include in its scope:
  - 3.1 deliberate use of poisons;
  - 3.2 unintentional poisoning through accidental or negligent misuse;
  - 3.3 primary poisoning of migratory animals through poison baits;
  - 3.4 secondary poisoning of migratory animals; and
  - 3.5 lead, especially lead ammunition; and
4. *Requests* the working group to complete the preparation of a detailed recommendation to be brought forward for adoption at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties.