



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.10.3.4

16 March 2026

Original: English

15th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026
Agenda Item 10.3

**REPORT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN
MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA) TO CMS COP15**

(Prepared by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat)

Summary:

This document contains a brief report featuring several highlights of the work, and progress achieved, in the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) since the 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

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1. Accession of Parties

The Secretariat actively engaged with relevant authorities and held consultations with representatives from Austria, Kazakhstan, Oman and the Seychelles to encourage accession to the Agreement. No new Parties acceded to AEWA during the period since COP14.

AEWA currently has 85 Parties, comprising 39 African States and 46 Eurasian Parties, including the European Union. This represents 71% of the total number of Range States within the Agreement area.

2. UNEP/AEWA Secretariat staffing situation

The previous Executive Secretary, Mr. Jacques Trouvilliez, retired from his service with the Secretariat and the United Nations on 31 December 2025. With effect from 7 January 2026, Mr. Sergey Dereliev, formerly Chief Programmatic Officer of the Secretariat, was appointed Acting Executive Secretary for an initial period of one year.

The Secretariat comprises twelve staff positions: seven Professional staff members (P staff) and five General Service staff members (G staff). The core budget adopted at the 9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP9) in November 2025 provides funding for 10 positions, corresponding to 8.35 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts. Two positions are project-funded and fully financed through voluntary contributions. Occupancy of the remaining posts to reach the Secretariat's full staffing complement of 11.8 FTEs also depends on the availability of additional voluntary contributions.

At present, the Secretariat operates with 9.9 FTEs. One full-time position remains vacant, while four others are filled on a part-time basis ranging between 50 and 80 per cent.

3. Meetings of AEWA bodies

3.1. Standing Committee

All meetings of the AEWA Standing Committee have been held virtually, apart from the one held after the closure of MOP9.

Since CMS COP14, the Standing Committee has convened five meetings:

- [24th meeting of the Standing Committee](#), 4 July 2024
- [25th meeting of the Standing Committee](#), 10 February 2025
- [26th meeting of the Standing Committee](#), 24-25 September 2025
- [27th meeting of the Standing Committee](#), 14 November 2025
- [28th meeting of the Standing Committee](#), 12 March 2026

Amongst other things, the latest meeting of the Standing Committee approved the Programme of Work for the Secretariat for the period 2026-2028. Two more meetings are scheduled to take place before the end of 2026.

3.2. Technical Committee

Since CMS COP14, the Technical Committee met twice.

[19th meeting of the Technical Committee](#), 12-14 March 2024 (virtual)

[20th meeting of the Technical Committee](#), 24-28 February 2025 (in-person)

The 20th meeting of the Technical Committee was kindly hosted by the Government of the Czech Republic in the town of Mikulov in South Moravia.

The [21st meeting of the Technical Committee](#) is scheduled to take place virtually on 28-30 April 2026.

3.3. Meeting of the Parties

The [9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties](#) took place from 11 to 14 November 2025 in Bonn, Germany, and was hosted by the Secretariat in the UN Campus.

To facilitate the preparation of the African Parties for MOP9, the Secretariat convened, with financial support from the UK, a [virtual regional preparatory meeting](#) on 16-17 September 2025.

MOP9 adopted 11 resolutions and provided a strong mandate for the implementation of a prioritised set of activities during the final triennium of the current AEWA Strategic Plan. Several elements of transformational change were also agreed for development, with proposals to be submitted to MOP10 in 2028, including the development of a draft Strategic Plan for the period 2029-2037.

4. Amendments to the Agreement text and its annexes

Through [Resolution 9.1](#), MOP9 adopted several amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of the Agreement which concerned (1) changes to the taxonomy and nomenclature of listed species, (2) a new category of listing that retains extinct species on the Agreement's annexes, (3) a further listing category for species with depleted populations, (4) changes to classification of populations in Table 1 of Annex 3 to the Agreement, and (5) changes to eight paragraphs of the Agreement's Action Plan in Annex 3.

5. Major reports, guidance and other papers

The [9th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report](#) (CSR9) was submitted to MOP9. It is the first of its kind to focus on the status of pressures and responses as opposed to status of populations in all previous editions. A short [video trailer](#) was produced to offer a succinct version of the conclusions and recommendations of CSR9.

MOP9 also adopted revised [Conservation Guidelines No. 4](#) on the Management of Key Sites for Migratory Waterbirds and revised [Conservation Guidelines No. 7](#) on the Development of Ecotourism at Wetlands.

Appendix I to [Resolution 9.5](#) provides a compilation of all Conservation Guidelines in the sense of Article IV, paragraph 4 of the Agreement and paragraph 7.3 of the Action Plan in 2 Annex 3 to the Agreement, as well as other guidance documents relevant for the interpretation and implementation of the Agreement.

6. International Species Action and Management Plans (ISAPs and ISMPs)

With the recruitment of a new Species Officer in March 2024, coordination of several ISAPs was resumed and online International Species Working Group (ISWG) meetings were held for the following species: Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*), Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*), and Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*). Within the framework of the [European Goose Management Platform](#), in-person meetings of the European Goose Management International Working Group have been held annually, in addition to more frequent virtual meetings of this Group's seven Task Forces.

The format and guidelines for AEWA [ISAPs](#) and [ISMPs](#) were revised, and both the [ISAP for the Taiga Bean Goose \(*Anser fabalis fabalis*\)](#) and the [ISMP for the Svalbard-breeding population of Pink-footed Goose \(*Anser brachyrhynchus*\)](#) underwent full evaluations and revisions. A [Conservation Brief](#) was also finalised for the Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), which has catalysed planning for an emergency review meeting.

Grants from the European Union (EU) enabled the Secretariat to support national-level projects to implement aspects of the ISAPs for the Northern Bald Ibis, White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresii*), Slaty Egret (*Egretta vinaceigula*) and Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*). A further grant has been secured from the EU, which will be used to provide structured support to ISWG Coordinators in 2026-2028.

A comprehensive overview of the coordination and implementation of AEWA's ISAPs and ISMPs is available in [CSR9](#).

7. Capacity building

Capacity building activities for the period mainly focused on the African region. The latest event organised by the Secretariat, with financial support from the European Union, was a [Training workshop on AEWA National Reporting](#) for National Respondents in African Anglophone AEWA Parties on 27-28 November 2024 in Bonn, Germany.

Additional funding was secured from the EU to sustain the training on national reporting also in the triennium 2026-2028 where four workshops are being planned in 2026 and 2027 targeting all Parties of the Agreement.

8. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

As the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2025, a significant portion of the Secretariat's communication activities focused on marking this milestone. The anniversary celebrations culminated at MOP9, where a [special commemorative session](#) was held featuring four keynote speakers. During the session, tribute was paid to the first AEWA-listed species to be officially declared extinct, the Slender-billed Curlew. The tribute included the unveiling of a taxidermy specimen during the plenary, generously loaned by the Museum Koenig Bonn. A [dedicated feature](#) was also published on the AEWA website to commemorate the species.

Additional 30th-anniversary communication products included a [dedicated webpage](#), an [anniversary brochure](#), three animated videos ([1](#), [2](#), and [3](#)), and a series of [United Nations postal stamps](#) featuring three AEWA-listed species.

At the end of 2025, a new AEWA website was launched as part of the CMS Family web platform, led by the Convention on Migratory Species. The new site introduces a mobile-friendly design and improved accessibility, enhancing the dissemination of information and outreach.

The Secretariat also continues to play a central role as one of the main organizers of the annual World Migratory Bird Day campaign, together with the CMS Secretariat and other campaign partners.

9. Cooperation within CMS and other MEAs and organisations

9.1. Convention on Migratory Species

On institutional level, the AEWA Secretariat shares the Administrative & Finance Management Unit (AFMU) with the CMS Secretariat and other Secretariats of instruments in the CMS Family. A revised arrangement on the joint CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Public Awareness (IMCA) Unit was agreed in mid-2025 for a period of one year and is due for review later in 2026.

On programmatic level, the Secretariat follows the work of several of the thematic task forces under CMS, such as the (1) Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean, (2) the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds in South-West Asia, and (2) the Multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation.

The Secretariat also regularly attends the meetings of the CMS Standing Committee and the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council and is closely involved in the latter's Working Group on Flyways and the various sub-groups thereof.

9.2. Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

The cooperation with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention has mainly focused on the African region, but also on some broader topics such as flyway conservation and partnership for waterbird population estimates with two resolutions adopted at COP15 in July 2025, respectively [Resolution XV.16](#) on Strengthening national actions for the conservation and restoration of waterbird flyways and critical sites and [Resolution XV.11](#) on Establishment of the Global Waterbird Estimates Partnership (GWEP) and delivery of the 2027 edition of Waterbird Population Estimates.

The AEWA Secretariat is a member of GWEP's Interim Coordination Committee supporting the full roll out of the work under Ramsar Resolution XV.11.

The Secretariat is also an observer to the Ramsar Convention's Scientific & Technical Review Panel.

9.3. Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

The Secretariat is a member of the African-Eurasian Flyway Committee of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) under CAFF.

9.4. East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)

The Secretariat is an observer to the EAAFP's Technical sub-Committee.