



## Joint Work Program between the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement

and

### Wetlands International (WI) for 2003 and 2004.

(based on the Memorandum of Agreement concluded in March 1997)

#### General aspects

There are some recent changes to the operations of Wetlands International, which modify some of the aspects as agreed in the 1997 MoA. Most important ones are:

- In November 2001 the Board of Members of Wetlands International resolved to restructure the organization in to one global organization, with a Global Management Team. The organization was to have its operational headquarters in the Netherlands that work with national and regional Officers of the organization.
- In June 2002 Wetlands International published its Strategy for 2002-2005. This Strategy identifies four major Program Action Plans: Wetland Species Conservation, Wetland Inventory, Wise Use and Capacity Building. These Program Action Plans, describing the work under the strategy in more detail, with indications of resources needed, will be ready, in draft, in mid 2003.
- As of 1 January 2003, WI will open an office in Washington D.C. as the main contact for activities within the America's.

#### Explanatory note:

*The signing of this Joint Workplan by the Executive Secretary of the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement extends to his responsibilities within the present geographical area of AEWA and to the actions and general policy as has been determined by the decisions of the Meetings of the Parties to AEWA. The signature of the Executive Secretary of UNEP/CMS covers the entire range of responsibilities of the Convention.*

EWI

## Joint Work Program for 2003 - 2004

### 1.0. Communication between the CMS and AEWA and Wetlands International in general.

#### 1.1 Communication Focal Points: as of March 2003:

Organisation	Focal point	Email
CMS	A. Müller-Helmbrecht	Cms@cms.unep.de; ulfm-h@cms.unep.de (cc)
<i>CMS: regional focal points for liaison with WI</i> Africa Europe, Middle East Asia-Pacific-Oceania Central Asia America's <i>Focal points at present missing will be communicated once available</i>	<i>unknown</i> M. Barbieri <i>unknown</i> <i>unknown</i> <i>unknown</i>	mbarbieri@cms.unep.de
AEWA	B. Lenten	blenten@unep.de
<i>WI: focal points for CMS and AEWA for general policy aspects:</i>	G. Boere (until 1-5-2004) W. Hagemeijer	boere@wetlands.org hagemeijer@wetlands.org
<i>WI: regional focal points</i> Asia America/Washington South America Africa Oceania Europe	T. Mundkur M. Steinkamp D. Blanco I. Sylla D. Watkins W. Hagemeijer	taej@wiap.nasionet.net Melanie_Steinkamp@fws.gov dblanc@wamani.apc.org issawet@telecomplus.sn doug.watkins@ea.gov.au hagemeijer@wetlands.org
<i>WI: focal point for AEWA (implementation, projects, TC):</i>	W. Hagemeijer	hagemeijer@wetlands.org

CMS and AEWA will receive an updated list of all Wetlands International offices around the world and will be kept informed about changes to contact details.

#### 1.2. Communication

- CMS and AEWA will report on collaboration with and support from WI, in reports to CMS/COP and AEWA/MOP and its subsidiary bodies in CMS Bulletin/ Website and AEWA Newsletter/ Website and in other meetings also of relevance for Wetlands International.
- Wetlands International will report on collaboration with and support from CMS and AEWA in reports to CMS/COP and AEWA/MOP and its subsidiary bodies, in Wetlands International Newsletters/ Website, meetings and other relevant communication means.
- CMS, AEWA and Wetlands International will ensure up-to-date links and posting of relevant information about each organization on their respective Web sites.
- CMS, AEWA and Wetlands International will regularly exchange publications, with CMS and AEWA undertaking to mail relevant copies directly to Offices of Wetlands International. CMS and AEWA will receive all WI publications from all offices and sufficient copies of the Global Newsletter and copies of regional newsletters.
- Wetlands International will communicate relevant materials and outputs, such as newsletters, of the Specialist Groups network to CMS and AEWA.
- The CMS and AEWA Secretariats shall keep the Regional Focal Points of Wetlands International on their mailing list for receipt of all relevant documents, and shall provide each with a single copy of each relevant publication that it produces.
- CMS, AEWA and Wetlands International will also endeavor to exchange non-confidential extracts of relevant meetings or missions reports.
- CMS, AEWA and Wetlands International shall, if appropriate, consult each other on the development of Program Action Plans, new Agreements, new strategies, larger work programs etc. as well as requesting input and comment on draft documents.

### 1.3 Meetings

- Staff of CMS, AEWA and Wetlands International will have regular contacts on day to day activities. Consultative meetings with CMS and/or AEWA will be held at regular intervals (not exceeding 6 months) alternately in Bonn and Wageningen. The next of such meetings should take place in mid 2003 in Wageningen. The business of these meeting will include:
  - Presentation of annual work programs and ongoing contractual arrangements
  - Review of joint CMS-Wetlands International projects
  - Review of Joint AEWA-Wetlands International programs and projects
  - Review of the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy and the activities of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee
  - Review of the Central Asian Flyway Project
  - Review of the America Pacific Flyway Program under development
  - Tabling of promotional materials that can be used by Offices of Wetlands International to promote the Convention and its Agreements
  - Tabling of updated contact details for the Wetlands International Regional Focal Points.

Meetings between AEWA and Wetlands International may take place at more frequent intervals given the substantial number of joint projects and the development of the AEWA/GEF Full Project Brief.

- The CMS and AEWA Secretariats shall invite Wetlands International to participate in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and Meeting of the Parties respectively and appropriate regional and technical meetings. Meetings identified to date include CMS/Scientific Council in 2004 and AEWA Technical Committee in April 2004.
- Wetlands International shall invite the CMS and AEWA Secretariat to participate in meetings of its Board of Members, global Waterbird Task Force (under development) and at appropriate regional and technical meetings, also of its Specialist Groups network. Meetings identified include: Global Waterbird Task Force (under development; this meeting focuses on the global IWC co-ordination) in March/April 2003; Global Flyway Conference in April 2004 and its Scientific and Programme Committee; Annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee.

Note: Wetlands International already has the status of Observer to the Standing Committee and Scientific Council of CMS and is a formal Member of the Technical Committee of AEWA. Time and resources permitted, Wetlands International will play an active role in these international bodies related to CMS and AEWA.

## 2.0. Promotion of the organizations

### 2.1. CMS and its Agreements

Through its ongoing work programs, Wetlands International shall endeavor to assist with the implementation of CMS and AEWA in general and with the recruitment of new Contracting Parties to the CMS, AEWA and other agreements and MoU's. CMS and AEWA will provide Wetlands International with the relevant documents and a list of target countries.

In 2003-2004 the focus will be on potential new parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Furthermore support will be given to promote CMS in the America's and in the Asia Pacific region, notably China. Activities in support of the Marine Turtles Agreements in the Indian Ocean and West Africa will only take place on an *ad-hoc* basis, when specific synergies have been identified.

Through the implementation of its Program Action Plans, Wetlands International will endeavor to support CMS and AEWA by promoting the conservation of migratory species in various ways (education, awareness, designation of additional species to Annexes, etc.) and by continuing to develop the Wetland Species Program (IWC in particularly) as one of the most important data sources for CMS and AEWA.

## **2.2. Wetlands International**

CMS and AEWA as well as other Agreements will, where appropriate, promote government membership of Wetlands International in order to broaden the scope of the organization and its global programs in support of e.g. CMS and AEWA. Wetlands International will provide CMS and AEWA with the relevant documents and an updated list of government membership and target countries.

## **3.0 Cooperative Activities for the Conservation of Migratory Wetland Species**

During the period 2003 – 2004 Wetlands International will implement and be involved in the following projects that will promote the conservation of migratory wetland species at the global, regional and species scale.

### **3.1 Global Activities relevant for CMS and AEWA**

The three key global scale programs, with different levels of organization, are the following:

- International Waterbird Census with regional programs in Europe/SW Asia, Asia, Oceania, Africa, South America and North/Central America and Caribbean; all are at different levels of development.
- Triennial review of Global Waterbird Population Estimates.
- Global Waterbird Flyway activities, promoting coordinated activities on a flyway level with a long term view to establish formal instruments (see below for details per region)

The first two programs are providing essential information, by means of regional overview reports and newsletters, for identifying internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds and providing an updated population status, including the development of 1% flyway population levels for the designation of Ramsar sites and network sites. It is also planned to produce trend data on populations of as many waterbird species as possible.

Such data are also essential for the discussions on sustainable management, harvest of waterbirds and the development of networks of important sites for migratory waterbirds..

During the period of the work plan CMS, AEWA and Wetlands International, will seek to increase the involvement, including financial support, of CMS and AEWA in these programs.

AEWA is active in supporting the IWC work in Africa and Central Asia and is aiming at continuing this support.

CMS, AEWA and Wetlands International will also explore the potential role of the GROMS initiative in future developments of databases on migratory species in line with CMS/COP7 Recommendation 7.8 Bonn, 2002. This means that CMS and Wetlands International agree in principle that GROMS and Wetlands International databases shall be linked in an appropriate manner that also via GROMS, Wetlands International databases on migratory species can become accessible. Technical and financial details of these arrangements shall be dealt with in a separate agreement of the parties involved.

Activities by Wetlands International on global waterbird flyways are of a more general policy supporting and policy development level, stimulating international co-operation and joint activities on shared species, species groups or whole flyways. The work is strongly supporting the aims and goals of both CMS and AEWA in the broadest sense. This is especially the case in Asia-Pacific where Wetlands International has the coordination responsibility for the regional cooperative framework for migratory waterbird conservation and in the America's where Wetlands International is promoting CMS and CMS instruments in particularly through the America Pacific Flyway Program under development.

Wetlands International will continue these activities and CMS and AEWA will consider supporting these activities on the global level with resources and information materials with priority for the Asia Pacific, Central Asia and America regions.

Wetlands International is in an early stage of developing conservation and sustainable management activities on other wetland related migratory species such as freshwater fishes, freshwater turtles, marine turtles, dolphins and bird species other than waterbirds in the traditional sense. CMS, AEWA and Wetlands

International shall closely consult each other on these activities and seek to further synergies in support of CMS instruments for these species groups.

### 3.2 Regional Flyway Activities

At the regional scale Wetlands International is involved in migratory waterbird conservation programs in Africa-Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Americas. The activities below are mentioned with the view that they contribute to achieving the general objectives of the Convention on Migratory Species i.e. to support the conservation of migratory species and the development, where appropriate, of instruments as foreseen in this Convention and where the Convention has a leading role to play.

- In Africa-Europe/West Asia, Wetlands International agrees to assist the further development and implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds through the full development and implementation of the GEF PDF B project and the GEF Full project Brief. It will closely work together with AEWA to finalize and publish the Wader Flyway Atlas.
- It will also support, via its offices in Moscow and Kuala Lumpur, the development of Central Asian Flyway initiative. This may include, *inter-alia*,
  - Organization of a workshop in the region to follow-up on new developments and on decisions from the workshop in Uzbekistan, August 2001.
  - Contribution to the assessment of current threats to migratory waterbird species and especially to those CMS species listed in Annexes of CMS.
  - Assisting options to develop formal CMS Agreements building on the above activities,
  - General promotion of CMS (and AEWA as a well functioning example of its Agreements)
- In Asia-Pacific, Wetlands International will assist the development of conservation measures for migratory waterbirds and their habitats through coordination and promotion of the Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 2001-2005 and the Central Asia Flyway Program (see also above); more specifically:
  - Secretariat support to the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee (MWCC) coordinating implementation of the Strategy.
  - Coordinating implementation of the Action Plans for Conservation of Migratory Shorebirds, Anatidae and Cranes in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway: 2001-2005
  - Support development of an initiative for the conservation of migratory shorebirds and seabirds in the Central Pacific Flyway together with the America's region
  - Input to "UNEP/GEF/CMS/ICF Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia
- In the Americas, Wetlands International shall endeavor to assist the development of conservation measures for migratory waterbirds through:
  - General promotion of CMS (and AEWA as a well functioning example of its Agreements)
  - Supporting the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network
  - Contribution to the assessment of current threats to migratory waterbird species and especially to those CMS species in South America
  - Assisting options to develop formal CMS Agreements building on the above activities, notably for the America Pacific Flyway Programme (under development). MoU's to be signed for the conservation of the Ruddy-headed Goose and Andean Flamingo's
  - Support development of an initiative for the conservation of migratory shorebirds and seabirds in the Central Pacific Flyway together with the Asia Pacific region

### 3.3. Species Projects

The Parties agree to consult on the development and progress of the following projects:

- Status overview and recommendations for *Oxyura leucocephala* (Central Asian Population)
- Status overview and extension of action plan for *Aythya nyroca*

- Action Plan of *Sorothura ayresi*
- Conservation action for *Acrocephalus paludicola*
- Follow up of recommendations of the meeting of the working group on *Numenius tenuirostris* (Kyiv, 2001), including promoting the new Action Plan (under development).
- Concerted actions for the conservation and management of *Chloephaga rubidiceps* in Argentina and Chile
- Follow-up of the status overview and population estimate for *Tryngites subruficollis*, in southern South America
- Location of wintering areas of *Anser erythropus* by satellite tracking
- Implementing priority actions for the conservation of the High Andes Flamingo Species.
- Development of an Action Plans for *Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus* and *Tringa nordmannii*.
- Flyway project for *Anas acuta* to be developed under LIFE III.
- Action Plan for *Anser cygnoides* and *Anas formosa* (being developed under the Anatidae AP)
- Threatened migratory grassland birds in Argentina
- Conservation of, *Xantopsas flavus*.

### 3.4. Global Waterbird Flyway Conference: " Waterbirds Around the World"

Wetlands International has taken the initiative, in close consultation with the Governments of the UK and The Netherlands, to organize a Global Waterbird Flyway Conference, 3-8 April 2004, Edinburgh, Scotland. CMS and AEWa will support the conference by providing general support on substance and presentation and specific, if appropriate earmarked, financial support.

### 4.0. General

- The above activities will be carried out to the best ability of the Parties, and within the resources available.
- The Joint Work Plan 2003-2004 shall be effective from the day after the three Parties have effected their signature and it will remain in force unless terminated by notice in writing served by one party upon the other, or until replaced by another agreement.
- Any amendment to this Joint Work Plan shall only be made on the basis of a written Agreement signed by the three Parties.
- No Party shall be legally or financially liable in any way for activities carried out independently by the other Party.
- The focal points shall aim to meet to assess the implementation of this Joint Work Plan at least once per annum, and shall arrange for a full review of the Joint Work plan in autumn 2004 in order to prepare for a new JWP from 1 January 2005 onwards.

**Wetlands International**



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