



6th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

“Making flyway conservation happen”

RESOLUTION 6.8

ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES AND MULTI-SPECIES ACTION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

Recalling that paragraph 2.2.1 of the Action Plan of the Agreement states that the Parties shall cooperate with a view to developing and implementing International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs), as a priority for those populations in Category 1 on Column A of Table 1 and those marked with an asterisk,

Further recalling that although ISSAPs are not directly binding, Parties are under a legal obligation to cooperate with a view to implementing such plans and that ISSAPs are, therefore, not merely recommendations, and that Parties shall make every effort to implement such plans as an extension of their obligations under the Agreement,

Noting that in accordance with target 1.4 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, ISSAPs shall be developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in Category 1 and in Categories 2 and 3, marked with an asterisk, on Column A of Table 1,

Further noting the new Category 4 of Column A of AEWA Table 1 added to the AEWA Action Plan under Resolution 5.6 for species/populations categorised by IUCN as Near Threatened, for which hunting may continue on a sustainable use basis within the framework of an ISSAP,

Referring to the revised priority list of species/populations for elaboration of new ISSAPs and the list of species for revision of ISSAPs as adopted by the AEWA Technical Committee for the period 2012-2015 as instructed by the Meeting of the Parties in Resolution 5.8,

Recalling paragraph 4.3.4 of the Action Plan of the Agreement whereby Parties shall also cooperate with a view to developing action plans for populations which cause significant damage, in particular to crops and fisheries,

Further noting that in accordance with target 2.5 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, international harvest management plans should be developed and implemented for at least two quarry populations,

Following the positive recommendations from both the Technical and Standing Committees concerning the need to approve and implement a further five new ISSAPs, one revised ISSAP, and the first AEWA International Multi-Species Action Plan (IMSAP),

Further recalling Resolution 3.12, operative paragraphs 4 and 5, and *noting* that the Standing Committee has approved the ISSAP for the Shoebill *Balaeniceps rex* on an interim basis at its 9th Meeting,

Recognising the progress made in establishing AEWA International Species Working Groups and AEWA International Species Expert Groups to coordinate the implementation of ISSAPs and the International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) and the increased implementation of ISSAPs and the ISSMP as a result of the operations of such International Species Working and Expert Groups

Also recognising the need to develop and adopt further criteria and guidance to streamline the action- and management planning process under the Agreement including the revision and possible retirement of ISSAPs,

Noting the recommendations of the overview of the stage of preparation and implementation of AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans presented in Appendix 1 and document AEWA/MOP 6.16 and *acknowledging* that despite progress made, continued efforts are necessary to ensure the long-term conservation and/or sustainable use of prioritized species/populations,

Thanking all Parties for the funding provided towards the development of new Action Plans as well as the work of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups to implement existing ISSAPs and the ISSMP,

Further thanking all governmental and non-governmental organisations which provide support to the development, coordination and implementation of ISSAPs and the ISSMPs.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the International Single Species Action Plans for the following species/populations:
 - a) Grey Crowned-crane *Balearica regulorum* (document AEWA/MOP 6.25 Rev.1),
 - b) Taiga Bean Goose *Anser f. fabalis* (document AEWA/MOP 6.26 Rev. 1),
 - c) Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* (document AEWA/MOP 6.27),
 - d) Eurasian Curlew *Numenius a. arquata*, *N. a. orientalis* and *N. a. suschkini* (document AEWA/MOP 6.28 Rev. 1),
 - e) Shoebill *Balaeniceps rex* (document AEWA/MOP 6.29),
 - f) Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita* (revision of the 2005 ISSAP) (document AEWA/MOP 6.32);
2. *Adopts* the International Multi-Species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds (African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus*, Cape Gannet *Morus capensis*, Crowned Cormorant *Phalacrocorax coronatus*, Cape Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis*, Bank Cormorant *Phalacrocorax neglectus*, African Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini*, Damara Tern *Sternula balaenarum*, Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*, Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*, document AEWA/MOP 6.30);
3. *Calls on* Parties to implement these and previously adopted ISSAPs as well as the International Single Species Management Plan pursuant to paragraph 2.2.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan and in accordance with the recommendations outlined in Appendix 1;
4. *Encourages* Range States that are not yet Contracting Parties to the Agreement to also implement these as well as previously adopted ISSAPs;
5. *Instructs* the Secretariat to convene, as a priority, AEWA International Species Working Groups to coordinate the implementation of ISSAPs for globally threatened and Near Threatened species as well as for the Taiga Bean Goose, an ISSAP with elements of adaptive harvest management, and for the International Multi-species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds;
6. *Calls upon* all Range States, relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations and bilateral and multilateral donors to provide assistance for the coordination and implementation of ISSAPs and the Multi-Species Action Plan that have been adopted, in particular through active participation in, and funding of, AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups;
7. *Encourages* Parties and Range States that are not yet Party to the Agreement, as well as relevant non-governmental organisations and bilateral and multilateral donors to continue providing assistance for the development of new ISSAPs, ISSMPs and IMSAPs as prioritised by the Technical Committee;
8. *Instructs* the Secretariat to disseminate these new ISSAPs, and the Multi-Species Action Plan to relevant Parties and organisations, to monitor their implementation, and to report to the Meeting of the Parties

as specified in paragraph 7.4 of the Agreement's Action Plan and through the international review on the stage of preparation and implementation of single species action plans;

9. *Calls upon* the Technical Committee to also produce a priority list and subsequent selection of species/populations for the development of International Single Species Management Plans or Multi-species Action Plans at its first meeting after each MOP, while anticipating the forthcoming possible changes of AEWA listing of species due to recent changes in the global Red Listing;

10. *Adopts* the decision-making process for the revision and retirement of ISSAPs as outlined in Appendix 2 and in document AEWA/MOP 6.33 and, *instructs* the Technical Committee to continue monitoring the implementation of ISSAPs and present proposals for the revision or retirement of specific ISSAPs to each Meeting of the Parties as appropriate;

11. *Encourages* the Technical Committee to revise the AEWA conservation guidelines on the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for Migratory Waterbirds as well as to revise the format for ISSAPs and to consider the need for such a format for ISSMPs and IMSAPs;

12. *Requests* Parties as well as the AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups to follow, as appropriate, the adopted AEWA conservation guidelines when implementing ISSAPs, the International Management Plan and the International Multi-Species Action Plan, stressing the need for this best practice, and *stresses* in particular the obligation to inform the Secretariat in advance of any re-establishment programmes for populations listed in Table 1 of the Action Plan.

Appendix 1. Recommendations following from the overview of the stage of preparation and implementation of AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans

RECOMMENDATIONS

Essential priorities:

- Urgently **step-up the implementation of existing Action Plans** – with an emphasis on the need for much **stronger government involvement and commitment** including the establishment of **National Working Groups** and the adoption of **National Action Plans** in key Principal Range States as appropriate;
- Urgently **source more funding, human capacity and technical know-how** for the implementation of critical and high priority Action Plan activities with a focus on globally threatened species;
- Urgently **step-up the work of the existing AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups and their coordination** for example by:
 - **re-launching currently inactive Working Groups;**
 - ensuring **Working/Expert Group membership of all Principal Range States** (in particular of appropriate government representatives);
 - providing **sufficient and active international coordination;**
 - facilitating **increased cooperation and exchange with other relevant government and economic sectors**, in particular with regard to hunting, agriculture and the extraction of natural resources;
 - ensuring that **sufficient guidance and mentoring** regarding the implementation of Action/Management Plans under AEWA is provided by the Secretariat and the Technical Committee, as necessary;
 - Ensure **conclusive monitoring of implementation progress** by undertaking in-depth reviews of Action and Management Plans on the basis of the indicators and sources of (independent) verification listed therein - in addition to information provided by the range states - within the framework of the Working/Expert Groups;
- Urgently **step-up the recruitment of new Contracting Parties to AEWA** - particularly from Central Asia and the Middle East – in order to further enhance implementation.

High priorities:

- Continue the establishment of **AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups** for new and revised Plans;
- Undertake an **assessment of the existing AEWA Action Plans currently without international coordination mechanisms and suggest their revision or retirement;**
- **Continue the development of the action- and management planning process** under the Agreement, for example by:
 - **revising the current AEWA Action Plan format** in an attempt to ensure that Action Plans have the potential to deliver on their goals, are more targeted and implementable and more practical especially for implementing agencies and policy-makers – including a better correspondence between Action Plan goals and activities and by restricting the number of included Principal Range States;
 - developing **format(s) for AEWA Management and AEWA Multi-Species Action Plans;**

- **revising the AEWA Guidelines for the development of National Action Plans**, including guidance on the establishment of National Working Groups;
- **Promote the development of further International Management Plans** under the Agreement on the basis of the example of the AEWA International Management Plan for the Pink-footed Goose and the revised AEWA Guidelines on the Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds;
- Ensure that **adopted AEWA guidelines are also taken into account** during the preparation of Action Plans as well as during their implementation, as appropriate.

Appendix 2. Decision-making process for the assessment of AEWA International Single Species Action Plans for revision and retirement (as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 6.33)

