

The Convention on Migratory Species & African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement

African STRP Focal Points Workshop
Ramsar Convention
Johannesburg (November/December 2010)

Overview of Presentation

- Introduction to CMS and AEWA
- The AEWA Technical Committee
- CMS and AEWA Activities in Africa
- Ramsar-CMS-AEWA Collaboration



Introduction: CMS

- The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS/Bonn Convention): Intergovernmental treaty which aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range, on a global scale;
- **Appendix I** of CMS lists migratory species threatened with extinction: Parties strive towards strict protection of the species, their habitats and conservation/restoration/mitigation actions;
- **Appendix II** lists migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international co-operation: Ranges states encouraged to conclude global/regional agreements (legally binding) or less formal instruments like MoUs (The main tools of the Convention);
- Currently 7 Agreements and 18 MoUs;
- 114 Contracting Parties (with 41 from Africa);



Introduction: AEWA

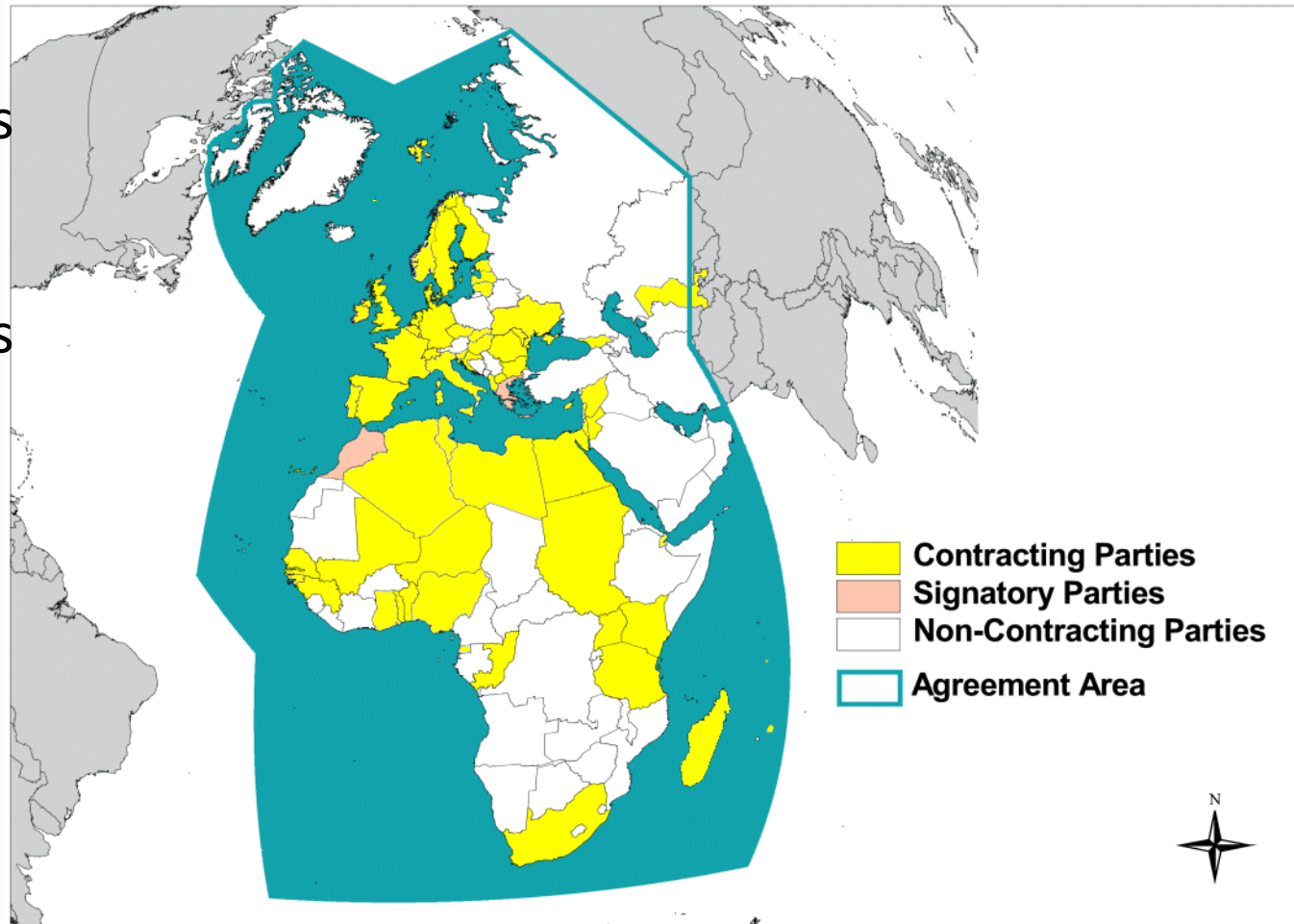
- The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) was negotiated under the provisions of Article IV of CMS;
- Concluded on 16 June 1995 in the Hague, the Netherlands; entered into force on 1 November 1999;
- Aim: To create a legal basis for concerted conservation and management policy by the Range States for migratory waterbird species;
- Mission: maintain migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favorable conservation status or to restore them to such a status throughout their flyways, over a range of 118 countries.

Functioning: CMS and AEW

- Decision-making organ: Conference of the Parties (CMS) and Meeting of the Parties (AEWA);
- Policy and administrative guidance in intercessional periods: Standing Committee (CMS and AEW);
- Technical and Scientific advice: Scientific Council (CMS) and Technical Committee (AEWA);
- Coordination of activities: Secretariats based in Bonn and both administered by UNEP;
- Partner organizations (BLI, WLI, etc.)

AEWA: Geographical Scope

- Presently 63 Contracting Parties (Including EU);
- 26/53 African Contracting Parties



AEWA: Species Coverage

- 255 species of migratory waterbirds (ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle)
- 28 Families and 554 Populations (status assessed in AEWANA Table 1)

	A	B	C
THRESKIORNITHIDAE			
<i>Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa (bre)			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean/West Africa	3c		
- South-west Asia/Eastern Africa		(1)	
<i>Geronticus eremita</i>			
- Morocco	1a 1b 1 c		
- South-west Asia	1a 1b 1 c		



Migration of *Ciconia nigra*
 Red Line: Migration Border
 Orange Arrow: Western Migration
 Yellow Arrow: Eastern Migration
 Blue: Winter Location

AEWA Tools

- Action Plan specifies activities under six headings
 - Species conservation
 - Habitat conservation
 - Management of human activities
 - Research and monitoring
 - Education and information
 - Implementation
- Strategic Plan
 - Further prioritises activities to implement the Agreement
 - Incorporates indicators of the effectiveness of the Agreement
- Conservation Guidelines (10 developed so far)



AEWA Technical Committee (TC) I

- **Mandate:** Article VII of the Agreement
- **Role:** Provides scientific and technical advice and information, to the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) and to the AEWA Contracting Parties (through the Agreement Secretariat)
- Makes recommendations to the MOP regarding the AEWA Action Plan, implementation of the Agreement and further research to be carried out as well as any other tasks requested by the MOP
- Works in collaboration with the AEWA Standing Committee

AEWA TC II

- Nine regional representatives (5 from Africa)
- NGOs: IUCN, Wetlands International, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)
- Experts: Rural economics, game management, and Environmental law
- Observers: UNEP-WCMC, OMPO, FACE, BirdLife International, WWT, Chairman of the AEWA Standing Committee, invited expert on hunting issues

TC Work Plan 2009-2016 (I)

- Lead shot, hunting and trade:
 - Examine potential problems from the use of lead shot in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems with regard to AEWA species;
 - provide advice on look-alike species with regard to hunting;
- Re-establishments:
 - (cooperation with the Re-introduction Specialist Group of the IUCN Species and Survival Commission);
 - development of supplementary guidance for re-establishment of waterbirds;
 - development of a reporting structure;



TC Work Plan 2009-2016 (II)

- AEWA Annexes 2 and 3:
 - Review of ornithological data on certain species to ensure better delineation of their populations;
 - Review the applicability of threat criteria as used in the AEWA Table 1 with regard to the IUCN Red List;
- AEWA Table 1 Criteria:
 - Guidance for the interpretation of the term ““extreme fluctuations in population size or trend””;
- Climate Change:
 - Identify further research priorities for informed future adaptation measure;
 - Assess the sufficiency of the present international network of sites for migratory waterbird protection (with regards to projected climate change effects);

TC Work Plan 2009-2016 (III)

- AEWA Single Species Action Plans:
 - Examine controversial issues in certain SSAPs identified in MOP₄
- International Implementation Tasks:
 - Review the structure to enhance their responsiveness to key and emerging issues identified by the international reviews
- Conservation guidelines:
 - Assess them and formulate draft recommendations and/or resolutions relating to their development/update, content and implementation

TC Work Plan 2009-2016 (IV)

- Mining and extractive industries
 - Produce a review on the effects of mining and extractive industries on wetlands and waterbirds (in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention STRP);
 - Ramsar Secretariat is leading this task while the AEWA TC is supporting;
 - The outputs would be presented in COP11 and MOP5
- Ongoing and emerging issues:
 - E.g. Emerging diseases, Invasive alien aquatic species, waterbirds in urban environments, traditional knowledge and harvest, Seabird by-catch, impact of agriculture chemicals, extractive industries, waterbirds and air strikes, power lines, etc.

Activities in Africa: CMS

- Mostly through Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (e.g. Gorilla Agreement, MoU on West African Elephant)
- Scientific Council's working group on Global Flyways
 - Policy options for migratory bird flyway conservation/management (key threats – habitat loss, climate change, unwise use, disease, etc.)
 - Request African and Europe region to maintain AEWA network and develop that of Raptors MoU
- Guidance on how CMS could contribute to protection of critical sites and setting up of ecological networks for migratory species: recognizes WOW CSN Tool, that protected areas are the corner stone of Ramsar, UNESCO WHC, etc and protected areas network of CBD/IUCN, etc.)

Activities in Africa: AEWA (I)

- UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyway project (Wings over Wetlands – WOW project)
 - Largest Flyway-scale project in the AEWA region
 - Significantly strengthened implementation of AEWA
 - Unique partnership between dedicated organizations and players at the international, regional and local levels
 - African Initiative of AEWA
 - Adopted at MOP₄ (Madagascar, 2008)
- Boost implementation in Africa (Plan of Action, training and awareness-raising, membership, monitoring and survey, etc.)



Activities in Africa: AEWA (II)

- **AFRING**

- Promote/improve coordination & quality of bird ringing programmes in Africa;
- Implemented by the Animal Demography Unit (Cape Town, South Africa);
- Focus on capacity building, regional cooperation, use of scientific data;

- **WetCap**

- Project to strengthen waterbird and wetland conservation capacities in North Africa;
- Developed under AEWA in collaboration with the Spanish BirdLife;
- Technical support from BirdLife International and Wetlands International and local partner organizations;
- Sponsored by the Spanish development cooperation agency, AECID;
- Project countries: Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia;



Activities in Africa: AEWA (III)

- AEWA Small Grants Funds Programme
 - Adopted at MOP₁ and launched in 2010;
 - Four projects funded in the 2010 cycle: Kenya & Madagascar (Madagascar Pond Heron), Egypt (breeding waterbirds in the Red Sea Islands), Ethiopia (White-winged Flufftail);
- World Migratory Bird Day
 - Initiated in 2006; now organized every 2nd weekend of May;
 - 2010 theme: ***Save migratory birds in crisis – every species counts!***
- Other projects and activities:
 - BirdLife/MAVA Foundation project;
 - Slaty Egret SSAP;



Ramsar-CMS-AEWA Collaboration I

- Wings over Wetlands Project:
 - Partnership agreement signed between the key partners of the WOW project on 14th June 2010 (AEWA 15th Anniversary Symposium)
- Technical/Scientific Field Missions:
 - Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM): participation of CMS and AEWA at the RAM in the Marrromeu Complex (Mozambique, 2009), Lake Natron Basin (Tanzania, 2008), Cayo-Loufoualeba (Congo, 2010), SIBE Moulouya (Morocco, 2010)
 - AEWA Implementation Review Process: adopted MOP₄ (2008). 1st mission in Syria (2010) on the conservation of the Sociable Lapwing

Ramsar-CMS-AEWA Collaboration II

- Technical/Scientific tasks:
 - Mining and extractive industries: Led by Ramsar with support from the AEWA TC
- Recruitment of Parties
 - Angola, Swaziland, Ethiopia (Ramsar), etc.
- Joint work plan between Ramsar, CMS and AEWA
- Future possibilities:
 - Coordination of Small Grants Funds programmes
 - African regional preparatory meeting for COPs and MOPs

Added Value of AEW

- What in your opinion should AEW be doing, contrary to the Ramsar Convention?
- Country specific priorities for migratory waterbird conservation?

THANK YOU!