

UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc.6.2.5

CMS - 45th Standing Committee Meeting

Agenda item 6. Report from the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

This report outlines the main activities undertaken and outcomes achieved in the framework of the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), since the 44th CMS Standing Committee in October 2015.

The Parties to AEWA met in Bonn for the 6th session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP6) from 9-14 November 2015 and simultaneously celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Treaty which was concluded in 1995 in The Hague (the Netherlands).

Among the 21 Resolutions adopted at MOP6, many of them are of relevance for CMS. These include for example:

Through Resolutions 6.5 and 6.11 the AEWA Parties have adopted the document “*Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment*” and requested the AEWA Secretariat to stay involved in the multi-stakeholder Task Force on reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation led by CMS.

AEWA Parties also adopted six new or revised International Single-Species Action Plans (ISSAPs) and the first International Multi-Species Action Plan under AEWA (Resolution 6.8). In addition, it should be recalled that 7 of the ISSAPs adopted under AEWA are joint AEWA/CMS Action Plans (the intergovernmental working group for the White-headed Duck Action Plan met in Madrid in October 2016). The AEWA Technical Committee is currently working on additional criteria to prioritize the selection of species or populations for the development of future ISSAPs and IMSAPs.

Through Resolution 6.4 on *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Migratory Waterbirds*, the Parties requested the AEWA Secretariat to facilitate the establishment of a European multispecies goose management platform. After an initial negotiation meeting in Paris in May 2016, the first formal meeting of this Platform will be held in Sweden in December 2016. The AEWA Secretariat, through voluntary contributions established a P2 and a G5 position to support the operations of the Platform and the recruitments are underway.

Following the invitation of the CMS 44th Standing Committee to consider developing common services and synergies within the CMS Family, MOP6 adopted Resolution 6.22 on *Synergies between the UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats*. The Parties have agreed to continue and refine the pilot Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising team and subsequently the AEWA Standing Committee (StC) adopted in October 2016 the future implementation arrangements between the two Secretariats, including staff time and budget sharing ratios, management structure and monitoring and evaluation indicators.

Taking into account the fact that the AEWA MOP7 was scheduled to take place in 2018, the AEWA Parties, through Resolution 6.14, extended the validity of the AEWA Strategic Plan and AEWA Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA) until 2018. The resolution instructs the AEWA Standing Committee, working with the AEWA Technical Committee (TC) and supported by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, to revise the AEWA Strategic Plan, taking into account the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

The AEWA PoAA will be revised alongside and both draft plans for the period 2019-2027 will be submitted to the AEWA MOP7 for consideration and adoption. The development of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is

underway, with a multi-stakeholder Strategic Plan Working Group established by the AEWA Standing Committee to steer and guide the process. The Working Group met in Bonn in June 2016 to launch the revision process and the preliminary draft of the plan is under consultation. The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the CBD Aichi Targets will provide important policy context for the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027. The process for the development of the AEWA PoAA 2019-2027 has been initiated – whereby the AEWA Standing Committee has adopted the concept guiding the process of developing the plan and the respective Working Group will be soon convened by the Secretariat.

On financial and administrative matters, it could be highlighted that AEWA Parties adopted CMS Family Standard Salary Costs and the UMOJA format for the budget. The Parties also decided to upgrade the three G4 positions at the AEWA Secretariat to the G5 level.

Other AEWA activities conducted in collaboration with the CMS Family include:

The global campaign World Migratory Bird Day launched by AEWA and CMS was again a great success. The 2016 edition focused on illegal killing of birds. The two Secretariats and the common Communication team work together to increase and formalize the partnership to support this global awareness-raising campaign. Thanks to a voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany, 11 WMBD activities were celebrated by 14 African countries, under the global theme. This included two transboundary activities in Togo (in collaboration with Benin and Ghana) and in Mauritania (in collaboration with Senegal), and nine national activities (in Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe).

Following a recommendation of the Executive Director of UNEP, regular meetings are held between the three Executive Secretaries of CMS, AEWA and Eurobats to explore and strengthen synergies within the CMS Family. In addition, a monthly meeting on administrative matters convenes the three Executive Secretaries of CMS, AEWA and Eurobats and the Head of the administrative and financial unit (AFMU). In order to help the AFMU, the AEWA Secretariat has temporarily provided an alternate certifying officer for travel approval until the AFMU has received extra human capacity.