



Waterbird monitoring framework under the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)

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Introduction to AEWA

AEWA is a legally-binding inter-governmental treaty negotiated under the provisions of Article IV of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

It was concluded on **16 June 1995** in the Hague, the Netherlands; entered into force on 1 November 1999

AEWA lists **255 species** of 27 families represented by 560 populations

85 parties have ratified AEWA so far (out of 119 Range States)

The Agreement is governed and managed by:

- Meeting of the Parties
- Standing Committee
- Technical Committee
- Secretariat (based in Bonn, Germany)

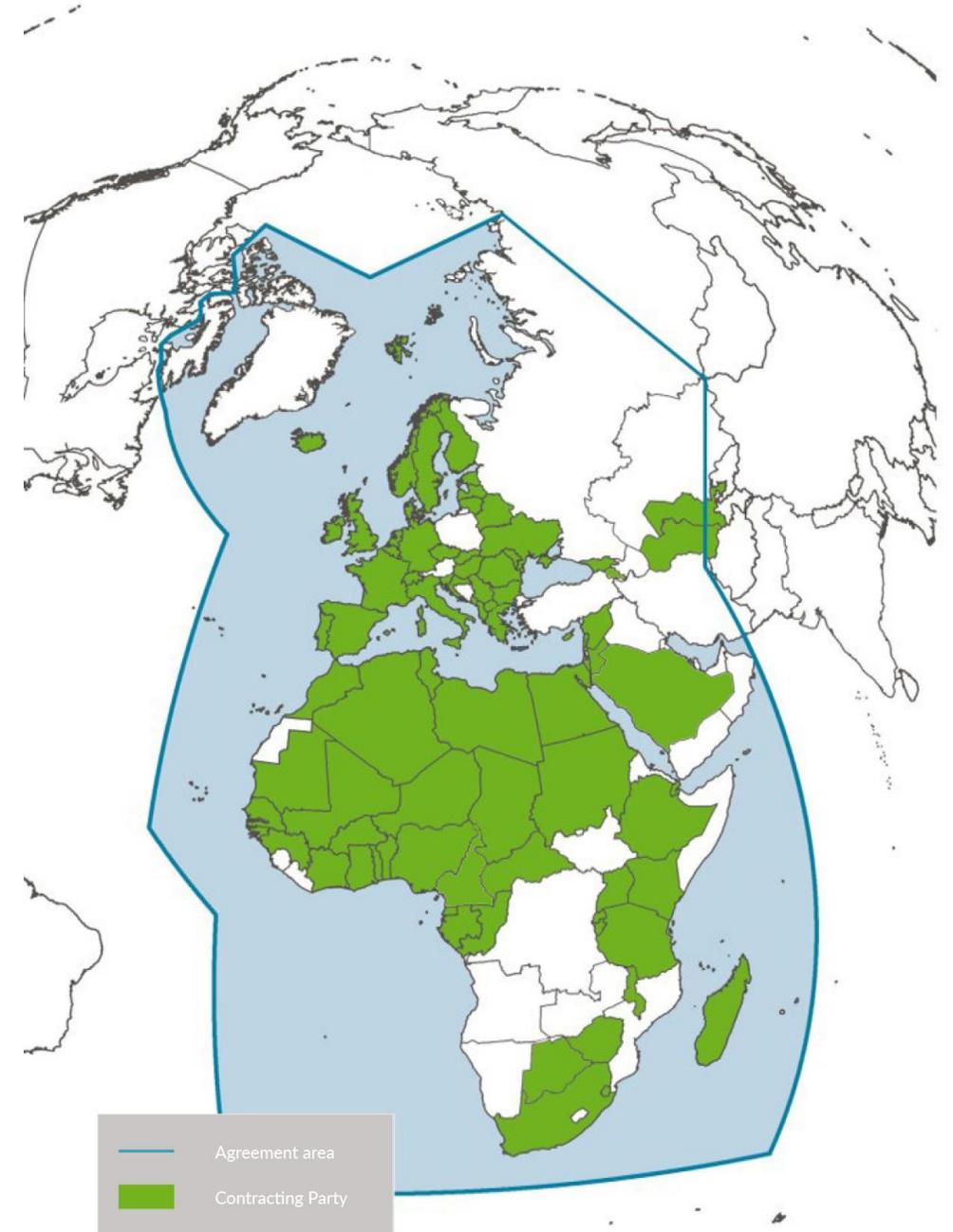


AEWA geographical scope (Annex 1)

AEWA covers 119 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa + Greenland and the NE tips of Canada



AEWA



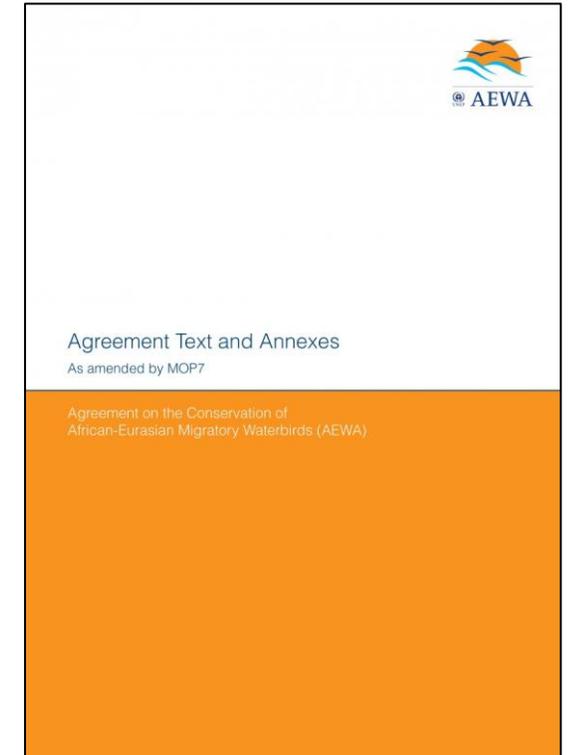
List of species (Annex 2): 255 species of 27 families



AEWA Action Plan (Annex 3)

The AEWA Action Plan specifies activities under six headings:

- Species conservation
- Habitat conservation
- Management of human activities
- Research and monitoring
- Education and information
- Implementation



AEWA Table 1 (to Annex 3)

The status of all 560 populations is individually assessed

	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 1c		
- South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c		

Legal mandate for waterbird monitoring

- Art. III.2(h)
 - *“initiate or support...harmonization of research and **monitoring methods** and...the establishment of joint or cooperative research and **monitoring programmes.**”*
- Annex 3 (Action Plan), para 5.2
 - *“Parties shall endeavour to **monitor the populations listed in Table 1** [of AEWA Annex 3]. The results of such monitoring shall be **published or sent to appropriate international organizations**, to enable reviews of population status and trends.”*

Purpose of waterbird monitoring

- Art. II.1
 - “Parties shall take co-ordinated measures to maintain migratory waterbird species in a *favourable conservation status* or to restore them to such a status.”
- Art. VI.8(a)
 - “consider *actual and potential changes in the conservation status of migratory waterbirds.*”



Use of waterbird monitoring data

- Review of population status – AEWA Conservation Status Report (CSR)
 - Population size
 - Population trends
- CSR informs:
 - Triennial revision of Table 1 of AEWA Annex 3 >> change of population legal status
 - Triennial prioritisation for conservation and management measures
 - Assessment of effectiveness of such measures (e.g. species action / management plans)
 - Triennial assessment of effectiveness of Strategic Plan implementation

AEWA Waterbird Monitoring Framework

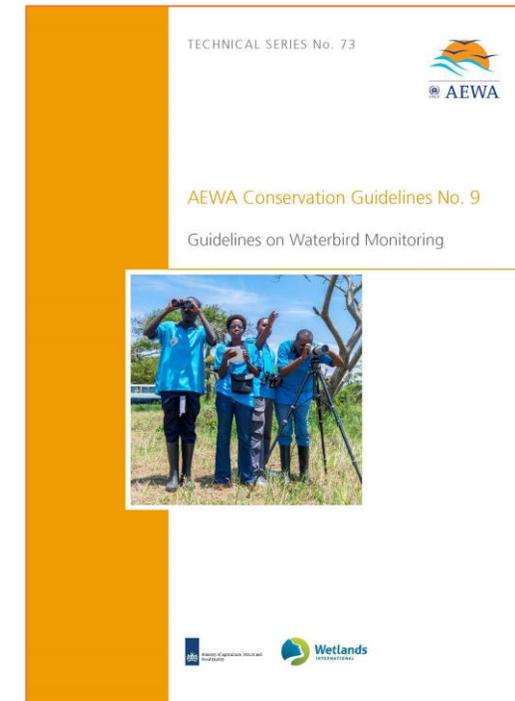


Priorities for monitoring development

- Priority populations – 6 priority levels
- Population grouping by methods of monitoring (e.g. aerial, offshore, breeding birds monitoring, etc.)
- Priority countries and regions for development of:
 - International Waterbird Census
 - Inland waters aerial surveys
 - Offshore aerial and boat surveys
 - Colonial breeding bird monitoring
 - Species-specific breeding bird monitoring
- Reference document: [AEWA/MOP 8.27](#)

AEWA Conservation Guidelines No.9

- Designing a national monitoring scheme
 - Objectives and methods
 - Timing and frequency
 - Basic statistic for drawing estimates
- Coordination and management
 - Building and sustaining a network of counters
 - Survey protocols
- Data storage, sharing, analysis and reporting
- Recommended monitoring methods and season for each population
- Access guidelines [here](#)



African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership

- Established in 2011 with Wetlands International as its secretariat
- It comprises:
 - Pertinent national agencies
 - 80+ organisations coordinating the International Waterbird Census nationally
 - Reps of WI/IUCN SSC Specialist Groups
 - Reps of Members of Wetlands International
 - Organisations coordinating complementary monitoring schemes (e.g. PECBMS) or capacity building programmes
- Supports the development of national monitoring schemes and improvement of monitoring information
- A Strategic Working group steers the Partnership

Resources: funding and capacity

- Waterbird monitoring relies mostly on volunteer human capacity
- Capacity developed by regional initiatives, e.g. Wadden Sea FI, Adriatic Sea FI, Mediterranean Birds, RESSOURCE project
- Governments fund monitoring nationally
- National coordinating organisations raise funding
- Waterbird Fund
 - Established in response to an AEWA MOP request (2015)
 - Hosted by WI, managed by the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership
 - Supports strengthening of waterbird monitoring along African-Eurasian Flyways



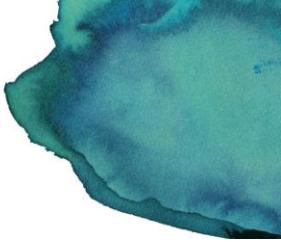
Waterbird Fund



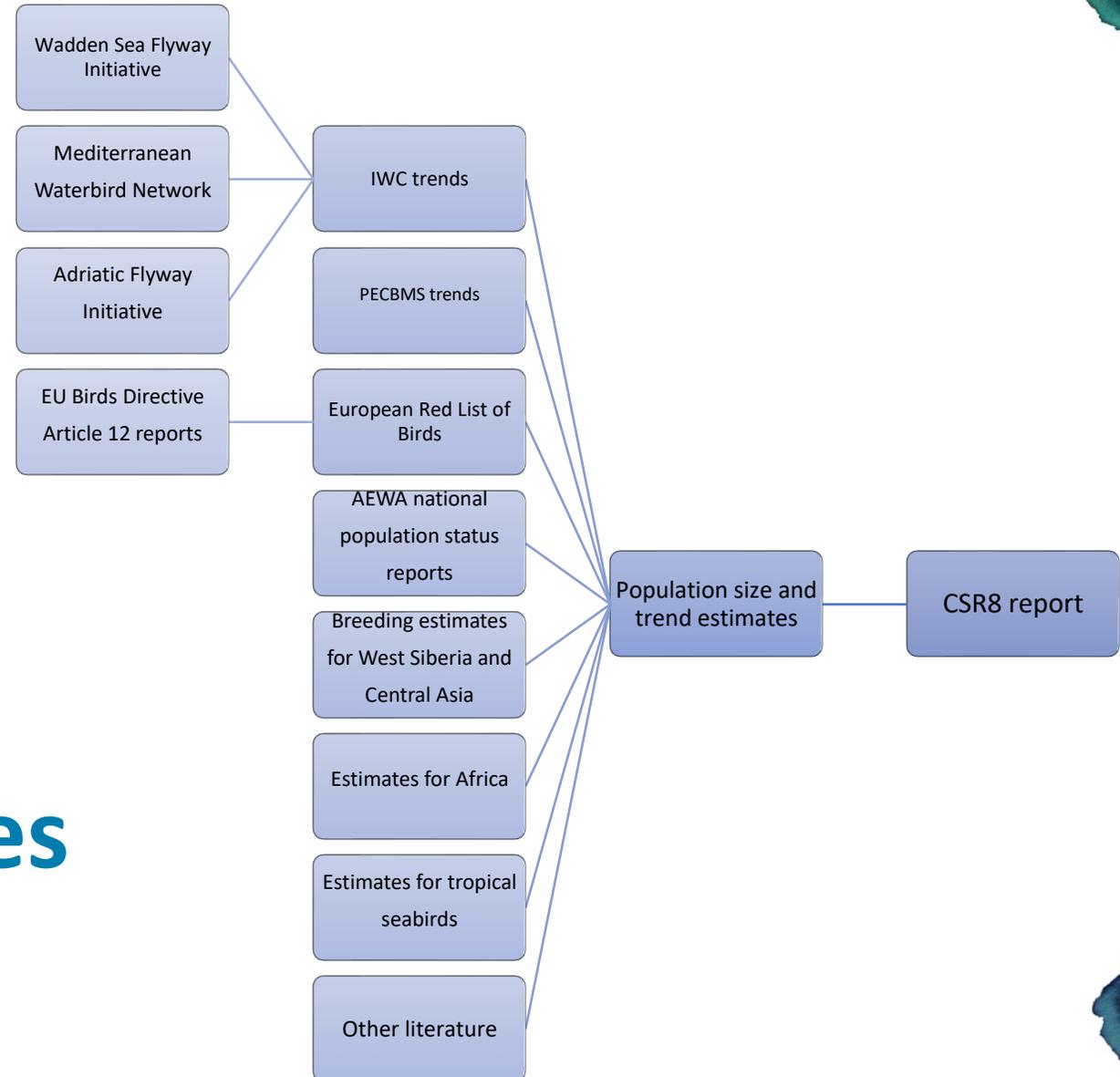
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Monitoring Synergies with other MEAs

- Analysed bird data required by various MEAs (Reference doc: [AEWA/MOP 8.28](#))
- Review of data collection and assessment across MEAs
- Mapping of existing synergies
- Potential options to strengthen synergies with other processes, incl.:
 - Data flow from national to international level;
 - Timing of analyses;
 - Timing of international surveys.
- Other frameworks: Ramsar Convention, European Union, HELCOM, OSPAR, CAFF, Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, IUCN (Red List), UNEP Regional Seas Programme – Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions, PERSGA, ROPME



Information sources for the CSR



Reporting to AEWA MOP

- Report on the Development of Waterbird Monitoring along the African-Eurasian Flyways
- Triennial reporting since 2015 (MOP6)



Other monitoring

- Integrated monitoring – drivers of population change
- Population monitoring for (harvest) management purposes
 - Productivity
 - Survival
 - Sex ratio
- Site-level monitoring



Questions?

