

**REPORT ON SIXTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY  
WATERBIRDS (AEWA)**

**By Kahsay G/tensae**

The sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP6) to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) met from 9 to 14 November 2015, in Bonn, Germany. The meeting marked the 20th anniversary of AEWA, and convened under the theme “Making flyway conservation happen.” Ethiopia, as a party has taken part in the MOP where more than 250 participants attended from various parts of the world. Therefore, the progress report of the MOP is summarized as follows.

The MOP discussed, among other things:

- The implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017;
- The implementation and revision of the AEWA International Implementation Tasks 2012-2015;
- Issues related to AEWA national reports and implementations;
- Financial and administrative matters, including a budget for 2016-2018;
- Communication strategy;
- New Arabic Translation to the AEWA text; and
- Waterbirds Monitoring;

Moreover, the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties also addressed:

- synergies within the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Family;
- International Single Species and Multi-species Action Plans and Management Plans;
- Conservation guidelines;
- Issues affecting the conservation status of migratory waterbirds in the AEWA region;
- Institutional arrangements and
- Amendments to the Agreement’s annexes.

In general, the MOP6 of AEWA adopted **22 resolutions** with good sprit. In its resolution on the extension and revision of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa (AEWA/MOP6 DR14), the MOP:

- extends the AEWA Strategic Plan and the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa until MOP7;
- urges all parties and other stakeholders to step up the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa and invites non-party range states to consider implementing both policy processes;
- calls upon donor countries and organizations to further support the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa through financial and in-kind contributions;

- further urges all parties to provide complete and thorough national reports to MOP7 to allow a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa;
- decides that the deadline for submission of national reports by parties to MOP7 shall be 180 days before the opening date of MOP7;
- instructs the SC, working with the TC and supported by the Secretariat, to revise the AEWA Strategic Plan taking into account the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, and to present a draft plan for the period 2019-2027 for consideration and adoption by MOP7; and
- further instructs the SC, working with the TC and supported by the Secretariat, to revise the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa alongside the revision of the AEWA Strategic Plan and present a draft plan for the period 2019-2027 for consideration and adoption by MOP7.

In its resolution on an update on AEWA's contribution to delivering the Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Targets and relevance of the SDGs (AEWA/MOP6 DR15), the MOP:

- notes the assessment of the TC in Annex 1 to the resolution regarding priority needs with respect to AEWA's contribution to the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in relation to migratory waterbirds and their habitats;
- adopts the actions within Annex 2 to this resolution as an updated assessment of AEWA's contribution to the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
- urges again that parties ensure that those national authorities responsible for AEWA implementation are fully involved in the process to update National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to further promote synergies between biodiversity-related treaties;
- urges parties to highlight to their development agencies, as appropriate, the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of SDG delivery, and to stress the need to better integrate actions for waterbird and wetland conservation within relevant development projects to achieve benefits, not just for waterbirds but also for human communities; and
- requests the Biodiversity Liaison Group, through the CMS Secretariat, to consider the extent to which existing data and information reported to relevant MEAs that relate to AEWA may contribute to the development of appropriate high-level sustainable development indicators.

Regarding implementation of the AEWA International Implementation Tasks (IITs) 2012-2015 (AEWA/MOP 6.18), in its resolution on AEWA IITs 2016-2018 (AEWA/MOP6 DR13 Rev.1), the MOP:

- adopts the IITs for 2016-2018 appended to the resolution, which are updated and amended on the basis of the IITs for 2012-2015;
- urges parties and specialized international organizations to: support ongoing projects and, where appropriate, develop new international cooperation projects for the implementation of the Agreement, according to the priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa; keep the Secretariat fully informed of progress; and report conclusions at future MOP sessions;
- urges parties, instructs the Secretariat and invites specialized international organizations to seek innovative mechanisms and partnerships, including with the business sector, to enable implementation of the IITs;

- requests bilateral and multilateral donors to provide financial assistance to developing countries for implementation of the Agreement by supporting IIT implementation;
- instructs the Secretariat to disseminate the IITs for 2016-2018, coordinate closely with related conventions and international organizations for their implementation, and seek appropriate donors; and
- agrees that future IIT lists be more closely aligned to the strategic priorities of the Agreement, more limited in extent and presented as projects that are more feasible to fund, and requests that the Tasks for the period 2019-2021 be developed accordingly as part of the process to draft AEWA's next Strategic Plan.

In its resolution on financial and administrative matters (AEWA/MOP6 DR18 Rev.2), the MOP:

- adopts the budget for 2016-2018 to the total amount of €3,078,778, which includes a withdrawal from the Trust Fund Reserves for an amount of €310,000; • adopts the staffing table as per Appendix II to the resolution;
- adopts the scale of contributions for parties to the Agreement as listed in Appendix III to the resolution;
- decides that the minimum contribution shall not be less than €2,000 per annum and that for the period 2016-2018, the maximum contribution shall be restricted to 20% of the total budget;
- requests the Secretariat to develop a series of budget scenarios for MOP7 and describe any differences between the UN Scale of Assessments and the scale used to determine contributions to AEWA;
- urges all parties to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund to support requests from least developed countries (LDCs), developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing states (SIDS) to participate in and implement the Agreement throughout the triennium;
- further urges parties and other partners to increase efforts to provide additional contributions to secure urgent implementation of the Agreement, in particular implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017, both extended until MOP7, and the AEWA IITs for the period 2016-2018;
- approves the incorporation of a part time (50%) post of Programme Assistant for the African Initiative into the core budget;
- instructs the Secretariat to seek additional funding in the form of voluntary contributions to extend the post of Associate Programme Officer/African Coordinator beyond 50% and to extend the post of Programme Assistant for the African Initiative beyond 50%;
- invites the UNEP Executive Director to extend the duration of the Trust Fund to 31 December 2019; and
- approves the terms of reference for the administration of the Agreement budget for the period 2016-2018.

With regard to resource mobilization for AEWA implementation, the MOP through the resolution (AEWA/MOP6 DR21 Rev.1):

- urges all parties to provide, in accordance with their capabilities, financial and/or in-kind resources to support national activities intended to achieve the Agreement's objectives, particularly those in line with the AEWA Strategic Plan, including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa;
- requests parties and other donors to consider providing voluntary contributions towards implementation of the Communication Strategy and invites all parties, range states and other stakeholders to support its implementation with the expertise, networks, skills and resources they have at their disposal;
- invites developed country parties in a position to do so, other governments, financial institutions and other partners to provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDS, as well as countries with economies in transition, to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures that fulfill AEWA obligations;
- encourages all parties to use innovative financing mechanisms for implementing the AEWA Strategic Plan, such as a Migratory Waterbirds Fund;
- urges parties to incorporate measures to implement AEWA at the national or subnational level into their national plans and strategies, such as the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;
- urges parties to enhance synergies in their respective countries between biodiversity-related conventions to facilitate information sharing on potential funding opportunities and the sharing of financial resources; and
- urges parties to report on the progress of implementing the resolution through their national reports to each MOP.

In its resolution on the AEWA Communication Strategy (AEWA/MOP6 DR10 Rev.2), MOP6 adopts the new AEWA Communication Strategy and also:

- instructs the AEWA Secretariat to implement the Strategy to the extent possible, taking into account available financial and human resources, regularly monitor and review its effectiveness, and report on its implementation at each MOP;
- urges all parties to develop "programmes to raise awareness and understanding of migratory waterbird conservation issues," and to report on activities conducted in support of implementing the Strategy as part of their national report to each MOP;
- requests the AEWA Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Focal Points, AEWA TC and its CEPA Expert to provide active support to the communication work of AEWA, especially regarding support for the Secretariat in identifying priority issues for communication, development of key messages, communication plans and products, as well as communication partners and target audiences; and
- requests parties and other donors to consider providing voluntary contributions towards implementing the Communication Strategy and invites all parties, range states and other stakeholders to support its implementation with the expertise, networks, skills and resources they have at their disposal.

Considering amendment of AEWA annexes, series of discussions were held and in its resolution on amendments to the AEWA Annexes (AEWA MOP6 DR1 Rev.1), the MOP:

- adopts the reference recommended by the 12th AEWA TC meeting as the AEWA standard reference for waterbird species taxonomy and nomenclature: the “Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 1: Non-passerines,” by Josep del Hoyo et al. (2014);
- decides to amend the list of waterbird species to which the Agreement applies as presented in Appendix I to this resolution;
- decides to amend Annex 3 to the Agreement by replacing the current Table 1 of the Action Plan (status of populations of migratory waterbirds) and the associated explanatory text with the Table and explanatory text set out in Appendix II to this resolution; and
- requests the TC to monitor the changes in the waterbird species taxonomy and nomenclature to be reflected in the adopted AEWA standard taxonomic and nomenclature reference and advise on the updates of Annex 2 to the Agreement, when appropriate.

The draft resolutions resolution (AEWA/MOP6 DR2NEW) on Arabic translation of the agreement text was introduced and discussed by the plenary and in its resolution on the adoption of the new Arabic translation of the Agreement Text (AEWA/MOP6 DR2 Rev.1), the MOP:

- welcomes the offer of the Depositary to provide a new Arabic translation of the Agreement text and its annexes, requests it to finalize the translation and to incorporate all approved amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 to the Agreement into the Arabic version, according to resources available and in close consultation with the Secretariat and the Arabic speaking countries;
- requests the Secretariat to circulate the final draft to Arabic speaking parties for clearance before its submission to the Scientific Council (SC);
- mandates the SC to approve the finalized translation as the new Arabic text;
- invites the Depositary to transmit certified copies of the new text to all range states following SC approval; and
- urges all parties to replace the former official version with the new version with respect to AEWA-related matters, invites non-party range states to take note of the new text and to use it as official text for the purpose of acceding to AEWA, and instructs the Secretariat to publish and disseminate the new version in a timely manner, as soon as it becomes available.

The draft resolution on waterbird monitoring (AEWA/MOP 6.24) was introduced and in its resolution on strengthening monitoring of migratory waterbirds (AEWA/MOP6 DR3 Rev.1), the MOP, among other things:

- urges parties to ensure that the AEWA objectives are incorporated into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and other strategic planning processes;
- invites the organizations participating in the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership to jointly establish a fund to resource waterbird monitoring activities and urges parties to regularly contribute to it;

- invites the Strategic Working Group of the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership to decide priorities for using the resources of the fund in consultation with the AEWA TC;
- invites the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership to inform the MOP at each of its sessions on amounts raised, resources used and remaining gaps;
- invites parties, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other organizations to use World Migratory Bird Day events as fundraising opportunities and to contribute to the Partnership Fund;
- urges parties and organizations to provide financial support for: developing advice to MOP7 on the monitoring of seabirds and colonial breeding waterbirds; the revision of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on waterbird monitoring; and identifying priorities for the systematic development of waterbird monitoring;
- urges parties, the SC, the TC and the Secretariat to provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the SC report on progress in implementing the AEWA Strategic Plan 20092017 (AEWA/MOP 6.12), as necessary; and
- invites the TC and the Secretariat to work with the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to identify possible synergies with respect to waterbird monitoring.

International single species and multispecies action plans and management plans were presented and in this regard, draft International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs) for the Grey-crowned crane, Taiga bean goose, Long-tailed duck, Eurasian curlew and Shoebill (AEWA/MOP 6.25-29), as well as a draft revised ISSAP for the Northern bald ibis (AEWA/MOP 6.32) and a draft International Multi-Species Action Plan (IMSAP) for the Conservation of Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds (AEWA/MOP 6.30) were introduced.

Therefore, in its resolution on ISSAPs and IMSAPs (AEWA/MOP6 DR8 Rev.1), the MOP:

- adopts the ISSAPs for the following species/populations: grey-crowned crane, taiga bean goose, long-tailed duck, Eurasian curlew, shoebill and northern bald ibis (revision of the 2005 ISSAP);
- adopts the IMSAP for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds;
- calls on parties to implement these and previously adopted action and management plans;
- encourages range states that are not yet parties to the Agreement to also implement these and previously adopted action and management plans;
- 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 the IMSAP for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds;
- calls upon all range states, relevant governmental organizations, NGOs, and bilateral and multilateral donors to provide assistance for coordinating and implementing the ISSAPs and the IMSAP that have been adopted, in particular through active participation in, and funding of, AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups;
- adopts the decision-making process for the revision and retirement of ISSAPs and instructs the TC to continue monitoring the implementation of ISSAPs and to present proposals for the revision or retirement of specific ISSAPs to each MOP as appropriate;

- encourages the TC 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; and
- requests parties, as well as the AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups, to follow, as appropriate, the adopted AEWA conservation guidelines when implementing action and management plans.

The Secretariat presented four documents: guidance on measures in national legislation for different populations of the same species, particularly with respect to hunting and trade (AEWA/MOP 6.34); draft guidelines on national legislation for the protection of species of migratory waterbirds and their habitats (AEWA/MOP 6.35); draft revised guidelines on the sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds (AEWA/MOP 6.36); and guidelines for the sustainable deployment for renewable energy technologies (AEWA/MOP 6.37). The Secretariat also introduced draft resolutions on the revision and adoption of conservation guidelines (AEWA/ MOP6 DR5) and on the adoption of guidance and definitions in the context of implementing the AEWA Action Plan (AEWA/ MOP6 DR7). Following this, in its resolution on the revision of conservation guidelines (AEWA/MOP6 DR5 Rev.1), the MOP, inter alia:

- adopts the guidelines on: national legislation for the protection of species of migratory waterbirds and their habitats; sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds; and renewable energy technologies and migratory species (guidelines for sustainable deployment);
- calls upon parties to utilize these guidelines in a practical way that leads to minimal additional bureaucracy and recognizes the different social, economic and environmental conditions within the geographical area to which the Agreement applies; and
- requests the TC, as a matter of priority, to: complete its review of the style and format of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines; make intercessional recommendations regarding proposed changes to the SC; and following the SC's approval and resources permitting, put in place a rolling programme to revise and update existing guidelines, as necessary, and develop any new guidelines according to new formats as agreed.

Besides, in its resolution on guidance in the context of implementation of the AEWA Action Plan (AEWA/MOP6 DR7 Rev.1), the MOP:

- adopts the "Guidance on Measures in National Legislation for Different Populations of the Same Species, Particularly with Respect to Hunting and Trade";
- urges parties to implement the guidance as a matter of priority and to review the need for potential adjustments of their national legislation, and other relevant actions to reduce the risk of accidental shooting of protected waterbirds, after each MOP;
- adopts the guidance on the meaning of "disturbance," "deliberate" disturbance, "significant" disturbance and "serious" disturbance in the context of the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan; and
- requests the TC to further work on the guidance on dealing with accidental shooting of look-alike species in Western Palearctic and present a revised and extended version for consideration by MOP7.

With regard to issues affecting the conservation status of migratory waterbirds in the aewa region renewable energy, the review of the occurrence and magnitude of the conflict between migratory animals and renewable energy technologies deployment (AEWA/MOP 6.38) and the related draft resolution (AEWA/MOP6 DR11) were presented and discussed by the delegates. In its resolution on addressing impacts of renewable energy deployment on migratory waterbirds (AEWA/ MOP6 DR11 Rev.1), the MOP: urges parties and encourages non-party range states to, among other things, apply Strategic Environment Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment procedures when planning the use of renewable energy technologies; and urges parties, to implement, as appropriate, the following priorities in their development of renewable energy technologies:

- wind energy: careful physical planning with special attention to mortality resulting from collisions with wind turbines, and considering means of reducing disturbance and displacement effects on relevant species, including deploying measures, such as ‘shutdown on demand’;
- solar energy: avoid deployment in, or near, protected areas and other sensitive areas where this would be of significance for migratory waterbirds in order to further limit the impacts of solar power plants;
- ocean energy: consider possible impacts on migratory waterbird species, particularly loss of coastal inter-tidal habitats;
- hydropower: undertake measures to reduce or mitigate known serious impacts, such as habitat loss and degradation;
- geoenery: avoid habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation and disturbance in order to maintain the overall environmental impacts at their current low level; and
- bioenergy: plan bioenergy production in order to prevent large-scale impact of habitat loss.

The MOP also:

- instructs the Secretariat to stay involved in the multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force) to be convened by the CMS Secretariat; and
- requests the Secretariat to participate in the review and production of the second version of the document “Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment” in consultation with the CMS Secretariat, the International Renewable Energy Agency and BirdLife International.

Regarding conservation and sustainable use of migratory birds, a draft resolution on this issue (AEWA/MOP6 DR4 Rev.1) was presented and in its resolution on the conservation and sustainable use of migratory waterbirds (AEWA/MOP6 DR4 Rev.2), the MOP, among other things:

- urges parties as a matter of high priority and urgency to ensure that their legislative lists of protected species are fully in conformity with the AEWA’s Action Plan;
- requests the TC and Secretariat, resources permitting, to develop national lists of Column A populations (waterbird populations of particular conservation concern) for all parties in the

Middle East, Europe and Central Asia and assist the respective countries with national legislative revision for the species concerned;

- calls on parties to ensure that the revised AEWA Guidelines on Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds are fully employed in the implementation of the Agreement, and that further sustainable use and adaptive harvest management initiatives are developed to support AEWA's goal that all use of migratory waterbirds is sustainable and based on relevant, available data;
- recognizes that for undertaking adaptive management of harvest, the minimum data required are population size and trends and amount of harvest, and urges parties and other range states to strengthen their waterbird monitoring schemes, establish or step up harvest data collection, and reduce to a minimum the time lag between data recording and reporting;
- requests the Secretariat to facilitate, subject to the availability of financial resources, the establishment of a European multispecies goose management platform and process to address the sustainable use of goose populations and to provide for the resolution of human-goose conflicts; and
- urges range states of the high and very high risk non-native waterbird species populations to increase and coordinate their efforts to contain, control and, as much as possible, eradicate these populations, in particular: the mallard in Southern Africa; the greater Canada goose, the Egyptian goose and the black swan in a number of European countries; the cackling goose in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands; the ruddy duck throughout Europe; and the sacred ibis mostly in south central Europe.

In the case of updating the guidance on climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds, the draft resolution (AEWA/ MOP6 DR6) was presented and discussed in the plenary. In its resolution on update guidance on climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds (AEWA/ MOP6 DR6 Rev.1), the MOP:

- adopts the revised "Framework for adaptation measures for migratory waterbirds – 2015," as presented in Appendix I to the resolution as further guidance for actions related to national adaptation measures related to the conservation of waterbirds and their wetlands, and other habitats; and urges parties to implement these principles as a matter of priority;
- encourages parties to: complete the identification of relevant areas and build national networks of protected areas and other adequately managed areas; undertake national assessments of the resilience of these sites both individually and collectively; and report such assessments to future MOPs;
- urges parties and others to fully use existing guidance from the Ramsar Convention on the wise use of wetlands; and
- requests the TC to continue to periodically update AEWA's Guidance Framework for Climate Change Adaptation to ensure that it summarizes up-to-date knowledge.

With regard to avoiding additional and unnecessary mortality of migratory waterbirds, draft resolution (AEWA/MOP6 DR12) was introduced and in its resolution (AEWA/MOP6 DR12 Rev.1), the MOP:

- urges parties to give priority to utilizing the large body of guidance summarized in Appendix 1, as necessary or appropriate, in their implementation of the Agreement;
- thanks the EU for its financial support to enable the creation of the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean;
- requests the Secretariat, involving TC expertise, to continue to contribute to the work of the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group, and to contribute to the work of the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean;
- encourages parties, which are also CMS parties, to implement, as a matter of priority, CMS Resolution 11.15 on preventing poisoning of migratory birds and to utilize, as appropriate, its appended guidance to address risks from: the incidental poisoning of birds through the use and/or abuse of insecticides and rodenticides to protect crops; the deliberate and/ or incidental killing of birds through using poison baits for predator control and harvesting; and the use of lead ammunition and fishing weights; and
- invites those parties that are not parties to CMS to implement, as appropriate, CMS Resolution 11.15 on preventing poisoning of migratory birds and utilize its appended guidance.

As far as an institutional arrangement of Scientific and Standing Committees is concerned, the MOP adopted the revised resolution on institutional arrangements for the SC (AEWA/MOP6 DR16). This resolution:

- approves the list of elected or reconfirmed regional representatives for the SC, as follows: France, with Croatia as alternate, for Europe and Central Asia; Georgia, with Norway as alternate, for Europe and Central Asia; Libya, with Algeria as alternate, for the Middle East and Northern Africa; Ghana, with Senegal as alternate, for Western and Central Africa; and Uganda, with South Africa as alternate, for Eastern and Southern Africa;
- decides to make a provision in the 2016-2018 budget for payment, upon request, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of appointed SC members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and
- requests parties to provide financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are AEWA parties, to be represented at SC meetings by an observer.

Furthermore, the delegates adopted the revised draft resolution on technical committee without further amendment. In its resolution on institutional arrangements for the TC (AEWA/MOP6 DR17), the MOP:

- appoints to the TC the members and alternates named in Appendix I to the resolution;
- approves the TC Work Plan, summarizing the scientific and technical tasks for the AEWA TC for 2016-2018 and their prioritization;
- instructs the Secretariat to provide the necessary support to the TC and its activities; and
- requests the TC to create and maintain a register whereby relevant interest(s) can be declared by its members, observers, and other appointed and invited experts.

As part of this event, delegates witnessed two award ceremonies during the meeting, the 2015 Waterbird Conservation Awards and Migratory Species Champion Awards, as well as a 20th Anniversary Celebration Ceremony.

“Making flyway conservation happen” was the motto of the 6<sup>th</sup> MOP of AEWA, and parties have responded accordingly. Considerable number of resolutions that range from specific administrative issues to institutional arrangements and from specific matters of waterbirds to cross-cutting ones have been adopted by the MOP.

Generally, the 6<sup>th</sup> MoP of AEWA was successful in meeting its objectives both from the perspectives of its parties including our country Ethiopia and in the context of implementation of the agreement. The plenary was so comprehensive in touching major issues of migratory waterbirds and everything has felt into place, and all resolutions were swiftly adopted, leaving delegates in good spirits and thus satisfied with the meeting’s achievements.