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From: General Secretariat of the Council
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Subject: Outcome of the Ninth Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian
Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA MOP9)
(Bonn, Germany, 11–14 November 2025)
- Report by the Presidency and the Commission

Delegations will find in the Annex a report by the former DK Presidency and by the Commission on the main results of the abovementioned meeting.

Outcome of the Ninth Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA MOP9)

(Bonn, Germany, 11-14 November 2025)

- Report by the DK Presidency and the Commission -

The AEWA MOP 9 took place from 11-14 November 2025 in Bonn, Germany. The Meeting of the Parties took place at the UN Campus. The overarching theme for the MOP - marking the 30th anniversary of the AEWA Agreement - was “United for Flyways”, reflecting the core mission of AEWA to bring countries and the wider conservation community together to safeguard migratory waterbirds and their habitats along the African-Eurasian Flyways. The meeting followed the AEWA MOP 8, which took place in September 2022 in Budapest, Hungary. The AEWA MOP 9 was supposed to take place in Gaborone, Botswana, but this had to be changed, as the Government of Botswana had to withdraw its invitation, due to financial constraints.

More than 200 people, including delegates from 62 Contracting Parties, 49 representatives from non-Party countries, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and national and international experts, participated in the meeting. 16 EU Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden) and the European Commission, all parties to AEWA, were present. The first EU coordination meeting took place on 14 October. African Parties had their own coordination meetings.

The opening plenary commenced by welcoming remarks from Mr Levente Körösi, Hungary, Chair of MOP8; Ms Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (by video); Ms Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (by video) and by Dr Jacques Trouvilliez, Executive Secretary of AEWA. Following these opening statements were made by Denmark, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, and by Botswana, speaking on behalf of the African Group.

In total, 11 resolutions were proposed to be adopted at MOP 9. Due to time constraints Parties were encouraged to send their proposals for amendments to the Draft Resolutions in advance to enable easier workflow of the MOP. The proposed amendments from Parties, as well as the opening and closing statements, were published on the AEWA website.

Two working groups were established for discussions and negotiations on the draft resolutions: WG 1 on Scientific and Technical Matters chaired by Saudi Arabia, Mr Mohammed Shobrak and WG 2 on Financial and Administrative Matters chaired by the United Kingdom, Mr Simon Mackown.

WG 1 discussed all Draft Resolutions (except from DR 7 on Institutional Arrangements, and DR 9 and 10 on Financial and Administrative Matters which were discussed in WG2). More substantial discussion was expected for DR 1 on Amendments to the Annexes and DR 3 on International Species Action and Management Plans. For DR 1 the proposed new classification of the Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola squatarola* in table 1 of Annex 3 to the agreement was adopted. The EU will submit a reservation according to council decision 14228/25 as the Grey plover is a legally huntable species in some member states under the Birds Directive, but the EC will invite the concerned member states not to hunt the species. Further, a number of changes to the names of species were adopted, as well as the addition of a category 3(g) to Column A and 2(g) to Column B of Table 1 of Annex 3 to the Agreement as follows: "*(g) being depleted*".

Geographical terms used in range descriptions were also amended. For DR 3, the EU and its Member States proposed a request, to be included in operative paragraph 13, to the Technical Committee, to provide a recommendation on the prioritization of evaluation of the 11 species Action Plans to the agreement along with a number of amendments to clarify the text. For DR 6 a paragraph was added on thanking the Governments of Germany, France and Croatia, as well as FAO, for having generously contributed funds towards the development and implementation of CEPA materials and activities in the past triennium.

WG 2 discussed the budget for the period 2026-2028 based on four budget scenarios prepared by the Secretariat. Building on a proposal made by France and the insistence of several Parties to avoid a budget scenario with a budget decrease, the group agreed on a higher budget (Resolution 9.9) compared to the previous triennium that strengthens the position of the secretariat and agreed workplan.

Vacancies in the committees were also dealt with during the meeting. For the Standing Committee Norway and Denmark were elected as representatives for the region Europe and Central Asia, with Iceland and Hungary as alternates. For the Middle East and Northern Africa, Libya was elected, with Saudi Arabia as alternate. For Western and Central Africa, Cameroon was elected with Senegal as alternate. For Eastern and Southern Africa, Kenya was elected, with Zimbabwe as alternate.

Side Events were planned for Thursday, 13 November 2025, around the UN Campus. The topics for the 14 side events included “Accelerating Conservation Action for Coastal Seabirds”, “Building Climate Resilience along the Flyway: Considering Migratory Waterbird Conservation in Management and Policy”, “One Health: the Importance of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Intergovernmental Organisations for Leveraging the Double Win for Health and Conservation” and many more.

The MOP 9 also marked the last MOP for AEWA Executive Secretary, Jacques Trouvilliez, who will retire at the end of 2025. Throughout the MOP he was celebrated and speakers continually emphasized his huge contribution the success of the AEWA Agreement.

2025 also marked the 30th anniversary for the AEWA Agreement. One of the agenda items for the plenary of the meeting was dedicated to celebrating the anniversary. Several speakers were invited to celebrate the Agreement, by paying tribute to the slender-billed curlew, which is now officially declared extinct.

Finally, Eswatini declared interest in hosting the AEWA MOP 10 in 2028.