

Mr. Anton Bersenev
Head of Department of Hunting Management
and Animal Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
of the Russian Federation
4/6, Bolshaya Gruzinskaya str.
123995 Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Date: Bonn, 30 April 2012
Subject: **Invitation to the Russian Federation to accede to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)**
Ref.: 12-187-mb

Dear Mr. Bersenev,

Following the Meeting on the Identification of International Cooperation Mechanisms for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and for Hunting Regulations organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation on 2 December 2011, in Hannover, Germany, I understand from the meeting Resolution (Hannover Resolution) that the Russian Federation has expressed an increased interest towards a possible accession to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA). The accession of Russia to AEWA would be most welcome and I hereby wish to reiterate the invitation to the Russia Federation on behalf of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to accede to AEWA.

Being one of the most important countries within the AEWA region as a range state of a large number of breeding, migrating and wintering waterbird populations, Russia can play a significant role in their sustainable use and conservation. Only through international cooperation along the entire migration route of waterbird populations can it be ensured that they are maintained at a favorable conservation status. For this reason, the accession of Russia to AEWA would represent a major step towards reaching an overall coverage of waterbird migration routes and effective international cooperation for their sustainable management and conservation.

As highlighted in the Hannover Resolution, I can confirm that, should Russia wish to make reservations upon its accession to AEWA in respect of the AEWA Action Plan provisions on **lead shot phase out for hunting in wetlands** and **prohibition of spring hunting**, this can be done in accordance with Article XV of the Agreement.

- **Phasing out of lead shot** – paragraph 4.1.4 of the AEWA Action Plan reads: *“Parties shall endeavour to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands as soon as possible in accordance with self-imposed and published timetables”*.
- **Prohibition of spring hunting** – the prohibition of spring hunting is mentioned in paragraph 2.1.2(a) of the AEWA Action Plan, which has a broader context and also includes a ban on taking during various stages of reproduction and rearing: *“Prohibit the taking of birds belonging to the populations concerned during their various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned”*.

Please let me ensure you that these two issues should not be an obstacle for Russia to accede to AEWA.

Concerning the annual contributions of Contracting Parties to the Agreement's budget and the possibility to request that their annual contributions be covered in-kind instead of by the annual fee, the conditions are specified in Resolution 2.8 (attached hereto). Please let me point out that this possibility of exemption is applicable only to Contracting Parties, but not Range States which have not acceded to the Agreement yet. Moreover, this provision only applies to developing countries or countries with economies in transition, and can only be requested by such a Party for a limited period of time should a country be facing exceptional circumstances. The nature of the alternative in-kind contribution should be consistent with the needs and objectives of the Agreement. The request is to be approved by the Standing Committee in consultation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. Such approval of contribution in-kind instead of cash, if granted, shall expire at the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties following the date of the approval.

I hope that we can welcome the Russian Federation as a Contracting Party to the Agreement very soon and I am looking forward to continuing our discussions at the upcoming AEWA 5th Meeting of the Parties in La Rochelle, France from 14-18 May 2012. Please let us know if there is anything the Secretariat can do in order to help facilitate the accession process. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me personally at mbarbieri@unep.de or the AEWA Technical Officer Mr. Sergey Dereliev sdereliev@unep.de (fax: +49-228-815-2450).

Yours sincerely,



Marco Barbieri
Acting Executive Secretary

Attachment: AEWA Resolution 2.8 (2002)

RESOLUTION 2.8

GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BUDGET OF THE AGREEMENT IN KIND IN LIEU OF CASH

Recalling the Final Act of the Negotiation Meeting on the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds held in The Hague, in June 1995 which “invited the Meeting of the Parties to consider at its first session the possibility of accepting from a given Party contributions in kind in lieu of contributions in cash to the budget of the Agreement, with the understanding that such contributions in kind from a given Party should be permitted only in exceptional circumstances and that the nature of the contribution must correspond to the needs and objectives of the Agreement”,

Further recalling Resolution 1.6 of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement held in Cape Town in 1999, which instructed the Secretariat of the Agreement to examine, in close cooperation with the Technical Committee, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Convention Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the feasibility of countries making their contributions to the Agreement in kind instead of in cash, to develop criteria to establish a preliminary list of Range States to which this decision might apply and to report to the next Meeting of the Parties,

Aware of the need to create such circumstances that all Range States can contribute to the functioning and implementation of the Agreement,

Referring to the guidelines for acceptance of contributions in kind in lieu of cash, adopted by the Technical Committee at its 3rd meeting,

Appreciating that the Technical Committee has invited the Meeting of the Parties to endorse the Committee’s recommendation,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Decides* that contributions to the budget of the Agreement in accordance with article V paragraph 2 (a) may be accepted in kind in lieu of cash when the following criteria are met;
 - (a) The given Party is a country with an economy in transition or is a developing country;
and
 - (b) Exceptional circumstances are demonstrated; and
 - (c) The nature of the contribution in kind is consistent with the needs and objectives of the Agreement;
2. *Determines* that Governments of Parties wishing to make contributions in kind in lieu of cash shall submit an official request to the Agreement Secretariat explaining the reason for their request and the nature of the contribution in kind;
3. *Instructs* the Secretariat to forward such requests to the Standing Committee;

4. *Authorizes* the Standing Committee to decide, in accordance with the criteria set out in paragraph 1 of the present resolution and in close cooperation with the Agreement Secretariat and with the United Nations Environment Programme, whether such a request shall be approved;
5. *Further determines* that any approval of contributions in kind instead of cash for a given Party will expire at the ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties following the date of the approval.