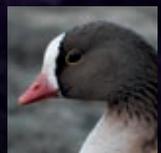




Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)



A Tool for International Cooperation



AEWA - An International Treaty Safeguarding Migratory Waterbirds

The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) is an intergovernmental treaty dedicated to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Greenland and the Canadian Archipelago.

Developed under the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), AEWA brings together countries and the wider international conservation community in an effort to establish coordinated conservation and management of migratory waterbirds throughout their entire migratory range.

Species Covered by AEWA

AEWA covers migratory waterbirds that are ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least a part of their annual life cycle. These include divers, grebes, pelicans, gannets, cormorants, herons and egrets, storks, ibises and spoonbills, flamingos, ducks, geese and swans, cranes and rails, waders, gulls, terns, skimmers, tropic and frigate birds, auks and the African Penguin.

All AEWA species cross international boundaries during their migrations and require good quality habitat for breeding as well as a network of suitable sites to support their annual journeys. International cooperation across their entire migratory range, as provided by AEWA, is therefore essential for the conservation and management of migratory waterbird populations and the habitats on which they depend.

AEWA Contracting Parties

Many countries within the Agreement area have already become a Contracting Party to AEWA. By joining the Agreement they have expressed their commitment to work towards the conservation and sustainable management of migratory waterbirds, paying special attention to endangered species as well as to those with an unfavourable conservation status.



The Structure of AEWA

The Agreement has three main bodies: the Meeting of the Parties (MOP), which is the governing body of AEWA, and the Standing and Technical Committees, respectively responsible for steering the operations between sessions of the MOP and for providing scientific advice. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat supports the Parties and services the bodies of the Agreement.

The AEWA Action Plan

The core activities carried out under AEWA are described in its Action Plan, which is legally binding for all countries that have joined the Agreement. The AEWA Action Plan specifies different measures to be undertaken by Contracting Parties to warrant the conservation of migratory waterbirds within their national boundaries. These include species and habitat protection and the management of human activities as well as legal and emergency measures. Research and monitoring, education, awareness-raising and capacity building are also essential tasks for the implementation of the Agreement. In addition, special protective measures are to be implemented for those waterbird populations of particular conservation concern, listed in Column A of the Action Plan.

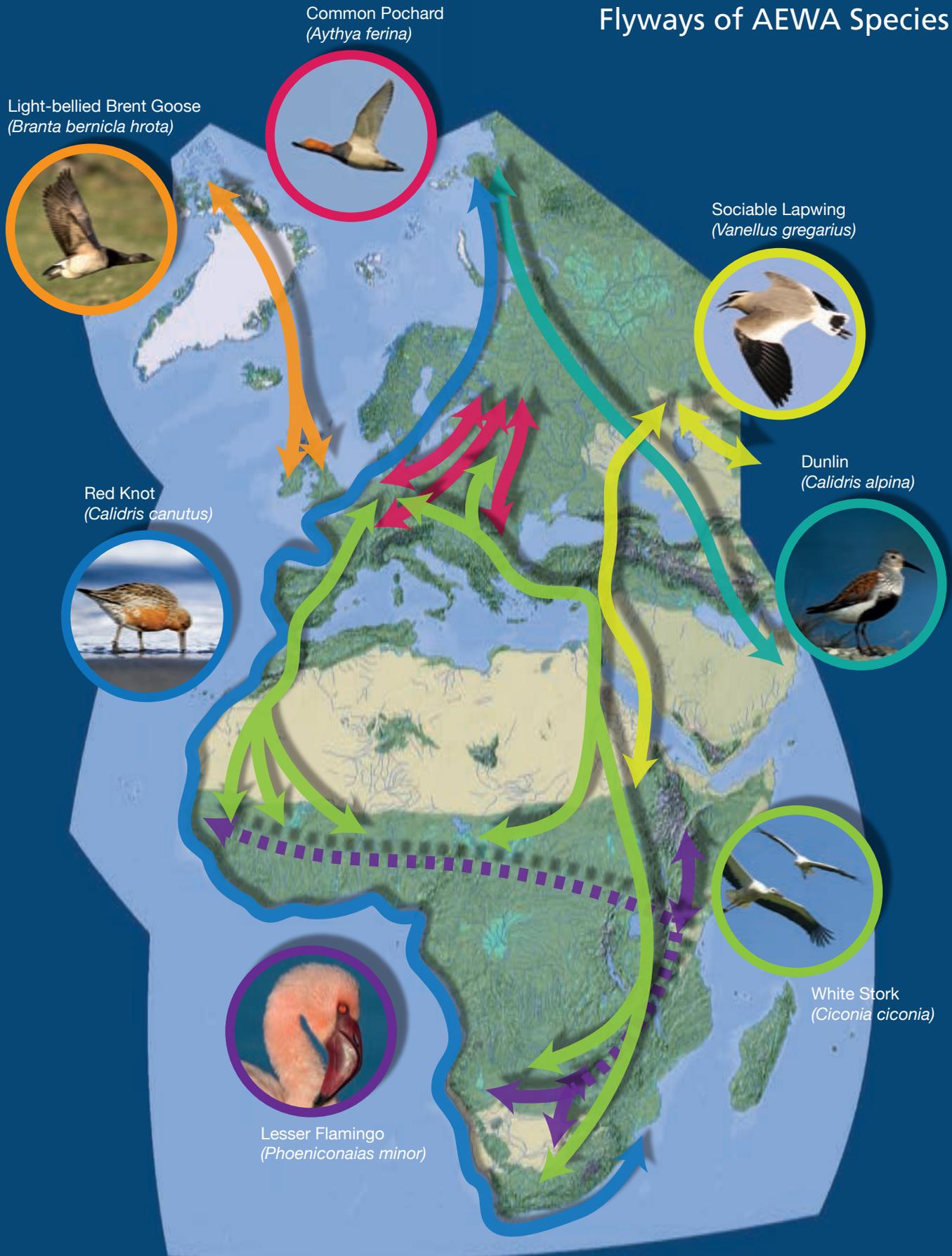
Within this framework, a great variety of activities are being carried out including the adoption and implementation of action and management plans for selected species; the development of internationally agreed conservation guidelines; the production of regular technical reviews on the status, knowledge, threats and conservation measures relating to waterbird populations covered by AEWA; as well as the development and implementation of capacity building measures, particularly in Africa.

To learn more about AEWA and current activities underway, please visit our website:

www.unep-aewa.org



Flyways of AEW Species



Following distinct paths, known as *flyways*, migratory waterbirds cover vast distances between their breeding and their wintering or non-breeding areas every year, stopping at vital feeding and resting sites along the way. On a global scale, there are several major flyway systems used by migratory waterbirds. As with all species that cross national borders during their annual migrations, the key to a more effective conservation of migratory waterbirds lies in international cooperation. AEW is the intergovernmental treaty established specifically to coordinate the conservation of migratory waterbirds among countries across the African-Eurasian region.

The map above shows the AEW region with its official geographic boundaries. It also features the amazing migration routes of a few of the species covered by the Agreement.



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