

Annex 2

Guidance on using alternative population estimates under Criterion 6

Background

1. The Waterbirds Populations Portal (WPP), managed by Wetlands International, includes information from the Waterbird Population Estimates (editions 1-5) and for migratory species based on Conservation Status Reviews (CSRs) produced by the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).
2. The 5th edition of the global WPE was produced in 2012. The population size and trend estimates and derived 1% thresholds provided through the CSRs give the latest information for these populations and should be used for the designation of Wetlands of International Importance. AEWA and the EAAFP are reviewing and updating these CSRs as per their established processes. Information from the CSRs feeds into the WPE updates. It should be used if a more up-to-date CSR estimate exists for a migratory population than that presented in WPE5.
3. As per [Resolution XIV.18](#) "Waterbird population estimates to support new and existing Wetlands of International Importance designations under Convention on Wetlands Criterion 6 – use of alternative estimates":

11. "AGREES that until the Waterbird Population Estimates are updated with accurate population estimates, alternative data sources may be used by Contracting Parties for the purposes of determining the 1% threshold in the context of applying Ramsar Criterion 6, provided:
 - i. that the biogeographical population of the species concerned is clearly stated for the species as listed in Waterbird Population Estimates available through the Waterbird Populations Portal;
 - ii. that such thresholds should be derived from estimates that are published in the Waterbird Populations Portal, for migratory species, based on Conservation Status Reviews (CSRs) produced under the auspices of flyway instruments or other peer-reviewed assessments for other migratory populations for which CSR-type assessments do not exist as well as for non-migratory and endemic populations;
 - iii. that the reasons why a new estimate is considered more appropriate are documented with a clear audit trail to original sources, thus allowing third parties to check any derivation of the estimate;
 - iv. that the standard methodology used for the Waterbird Populations Portal to convert from a biogeographic population estimate size to a 1% population threshold should be used; and
 - v. that any alternate thresholds used by Parties for Criterion 6 purposes, and their justification, be communicated both to the Secretariat (to maintain a log of such instances), and Wetlands International;"

Using alternative population estimates

4. Complementing SC63 Doc.19 (Annex 4 on guidance to facilitate the application of Criterion 6) and Resolution XIV.18, this document outlines the steps that may be followed by Contracting Parties wishing to submit an alternative population size estimate and derive a 1% threshold to apply Convention on Wetlands Criterion 6. Such submissions are limited to an outdated population for which new information is available and is not covered by the CSRs. If a CSR covers the population, no submission should be made; indicate the web link of the CSR population to be used in the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) submission.

Steps for submitting alternative population size estimates for Criterion 6

5. Step 1: Identifying the need for an Alternative Population Size Estimate
 - The Contracting Party identifies a waterbird species or population for which the current 1% threshold in the Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE) is not included in the Conservation Status Reviews (CSRs), and it is either not provided, is outdated, or considered inaccurate.
 - The Contracting Party has identified relevant data from peer-reviewed sources, and/or other reputable assessments, and/or grey literature.

6. Step 2: Compiling a submission package

Prepare a report with the following information:

 - *State the biogeographical population:* Clearly state the biogeographical population of the species concerned as listed in the [Waterbird Populations Portal](#) (provide the specific weblink to the page of the concerned population in the Waterbird Populations Portal).
 - *Document new size estimates:* Document in detail the reasons why a new size estimate, either as a single figure or a minimum and maximum estimate size range, along with the time period over which it was calculated, is considered more appropriate, including a clear audit trail to original sources, ensuring third-party review is possible (see Step 4). As a minimum, the description of the methodologies should include a description of the data, how the estimates were made, data gaps, and assumptions made.
 - *Use standard methodology for 1% threshold calculation:* Ensure that the [standard methodology](#) used for converting biogeographic population estimates to a 1% population threshold is applied. This involves two steps: (1) converting a range estimate to a single figure estimate using the geometric mean, and (2) deriving the rounded 1% value (see 'Rounding of one per cent thresholds' at the same link).
 - *Annexes:* A clear audit trail (see standard report template below) for all data and estimates used, along with a copy of sources used, including peer-reviewed sources, other reputable assessments, and/or grey literature.

7. Step 3: Submission to the Secretariat
 - *Submit to the Secretariat:* submit the completed report to the Secretariat using the additional reports and documents section 6.1 and reference this document in the justification section 3.3 in the RIS.
 - Ensure that a submission copy is sent directly to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and Wetlands International to maintain a log of the alternative size estimate used: strp@ramsar.org and wpe@wetlands.org.

8. Step 4: Review and evaluation by the STRP
 - *Initial review by Secretariat:* The Secretariat conducts an initial review to ensure completeness and adherence to submission guidelines.
 - *Forward to STRP:* The Secretariat forwards the submission to the STRP for evaluation.
 - *STRP Review:* The STRP oversee a process whereby relevant waterbird experts are requested to review the methodologies and data sources used in the submission, including those from Wetlands International and other authoritative bodies.

9. Step 5: Feedback and revisions
 - *Request for additional information:* If necessary, the Secretariat or the STRP may request additional information or clarification from the submitting Contracting Party.
 - *Resubmission:* The Contracting Party provides the requested information or makes necessary revisions and resubmits the documentation.

10. Step 6: Recommendation and communication

- *Recommendation by the STRP:* Upon satisfactory review, the STRP recommends to the Secretariat and the Contracting Party that the alternative size estimate and derived 1% threshold be submitted.
- *Based on the recommendation by the STRP,* the Secretariat reviews the submitted RIS.

Report template for alternative size estimate submission

Alternative size estimate submission

1. Contact information:
 - 1.1. Contact person.
 - 1.2. E-mail.
 - 1.3. Telephone.
2. Biogeographical population size proposed
 - 2.1. Biogeographical population name (also provide the specific weblink to the page of the concerned population in the Waterbird Populations Portal).
 - 2.2. Source(s) of current population data.
 - 2.3. Current population size estimate and 1% Threshold.
 - 2.4. Reason for submission.
3. New population size estimate
 - 3.1. New population size estimate.
 - 3.2. Methodology/ Detailed steps for deriving new size estimate.
 - 3.3. References to original sources.
4. 1% Threshold calculation
 - 4.1. Calculation method.
 - 4.2. Resulting 1% threshold.
5. Checklist of Attachments/Annexes
 - 5.1. Relevant data tables.
 - 5.2. Copies of original sources.
 - 5.3. Additional supporting documents.