

Annex 5

Financing the establishment of the Waterbirds Estimates Partnership and delivery of the 2027 edition of Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE2027)

1. Pursuant to Decision SC63-31, the STRP, in collaboration with relevant partners, has submitted a draft resolution on the establishment of the Waterbird Estimates Partnership (WEP) and the delivery of the 2027 edition of Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE2027). This annex outlines recommendations for financing the WEP and WPE2027 before a consultation with the Subgroup on Finance in December 2024.
2. This annex provides detailed information regarding the financial requirements for addressing the lack of up-to-date data for priority waterbird populations through the production of WPE2027 and the establishment of the Waterbird Estimates Partnership. The WEP will oversee, coordinate, and secure resources for future updates of waterbird population estimates.

Resource implications for delivering WPE2027 and the WEP

3. The anticipated resource implications for the establishment of the Waterbird Estimates Partnership and the delivery of WPE2027 are as follows:
 - **Establishment of the Partnership:** Costs associated with consultations, partner engagement, and documentation are estimated at CHF 38,047.
 - **WPE2027 Updates:** The estimated cost of updating 1,600 waterbird populations across multiple regions is CHF 366,076. This includes data collation, analysis, and expert consultation.
 - **Waterbird Populations Portal Maintenance:** CHF 61,234 is estimated for enhancements and bug fixes to improve the Portal's usability for Contracting Parties.
4. These cost estimates are based on prior experiences, including AEWA Conservation Status Reviews and similar efforts undertaken in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The costs reflect the comprehensive scope of the Waterbird Population Estimates updates and the long-term maintenance required for the Waterbird Populations Portal.

Table 1. The overall costs for delivering WPE2027 and the WEP in Euro and in CHF.

Priority actions	All populations 1600	
	Cost in Euros	Cost in CHF
a. Establishment of a long-term global Waterbird Estimates Partnership based on consultations with potential partners (2025-2026)	40,050.00	38,047.50
b. Development of WPE27 through a review and update of 1,600 selected priority populations, not covered on latest AEWA and EAAFP CSRs	385,343.83	366,076.64
c. Waterbird Populations Portal maintenance/enhancement (including ensuring additional functionality of the WPP for enhanced ease of use by Parties)	64,457.50	61,234.63
Total	489,851.33	465,358.76

5. Table 2 outlines the priority waterbird populations and review mechanisms for WPE2027 updates based on regional assessments.

Table 2. Waterbird population priorities and review mechanism for WPE2027.

Populations (no. of populations as per region/flyway in WPP)	Current review process/mechanism and resourcing assessment	Priority for a proposed WPE 2027 update	Activities with Resource implications
Resident or locally dispersing			
Africa (226)	Outdated information with no process in place	High priority	Collate, review and update to Portal
Nearctic (North America) (91)	National processes in North America exist	High priority	Assess the compatibility of available information and update the Portal
Neotropics (Central and South America and Caribbean) (200)	Outdated information with no process in place	High priority	Collate, review and update to Portal
Asia (Indo-Malay & Eastern Palearctic) (132)	Outdated information with no process in place	High priority	Collate, review and update to Portal
Oceania (incl. Australasia) (337)	National updates in Australia, New Zealand	High priority	Assess the compatibility of available information and update the Portal
Europe (35)	EU Art 12 process, linked with ERLoB, collation funded by EC/EEA	High priority	Assess the compatibility of available information and update the Portal
Migratory			
Central Asian Flyway (264)	Included in the CAF Waterbird Action Plan ¹ (264 populations, of which >140 populations are covered by AEWA CSRs) Outdated information for >124 populations with no funding or process in place is a priority	High priority	Collate, review and update to Portal
Central Pacific Flyway (& Antarctica) ² , (60)	Outdated information with no process in place	High priority	Collate, review and update to Portal
Americas Flyways (379)	Review processes exist for waterbirds in North America (to Central America) and 79 migratory shorebird populations across the Americas	High priority	Assess the compatibility of available information and update the Portal
East Asian - Australasian Flyway (276)	EAAFP CSRs process funded by EAAFP (276 populations)	Medium priority, to address pop gaps for many families and species not included in CSR1	None
African-Eurasian Flyways (532)	AEWA CSRs process funded by AEWA (CSR8 - 560 waterbird and seabird populations)	Low priority, plan in place for 2029 update	None
Total indicative costs:			366,000 CHF³

¹ See <https://www.cms.int/en/document/central-asian-flyway-action-plan-conservation-migratory-waterbirds-and-their-habitats>.

² For the Central Pacific Flyway (& Antarctica), numbers of residents and migratory populations are combined.

³ A preliminary cost estimate is based on the tasks foreseen for each region/flyway depending on expected available information and anticipated work. The estimated cost of a unit population is based on the AEWA

Timing and implementation priorities

6. The timeline for setting up the Waterbird Estimates Partnership (by COP15) and producing WPE2027 by 2027 is ambitious. To meet this timeline, work on the WEP needs to commence by early January 2025, while preparations for WPE2027 should begin by mid-2025. Financial resources for initiating these key tasks is detailed in Table 1.

Resourcing options

7. Three primary resourcing options are proposed:
 - Comprehensive funding (100% allocation): Full funding from the Convention on Wetlands, potentially through surplus funds.
 - Intermediate funding (75% allocation): Partial funding from the Convention, supplemented by additional resource mobilization.
 - Minimum funding (50% allocation): Basic funding from the Convention, with additional resources sought from Contracting Parties and other organizations.
8. Engaging in additional resource mobilization activities will be critical if partial funding is available. Full delivery of results is contingent upon securing these additional resources. Table 3 outlines the costs and possible reductions in deliverables under the Intermediate and Minimum funding options.

Table 3. Alternative cost options (in CHF).

Priority actions	Comprehensive (all actions)	Intermediate* (75%)	Minimum* (50%)
1. Establishment of Waterbird Estimates Partnership	38,000	38,000	38,000
2. Delivery of WPE2027 through review and updates of priority populations	366,000 (1,600 populations)	287,000 (1,255 populations)	170,000 (743 populations)
3. Maintain the Waterbird Populations Portal to deliver WPE information	61,000	25,000	25,000
Total indicative costs (early estimate):	465,000	350,000	233,000

** In instances where partial funding (Intermediate/establishment) is provided, additional resource mobilization activities will be critical to seek non-core contributions from Contracting Parties and supporting organizations; delivery of the full results will be subject to the availability of such additional resources.*

CSR8 and EAAFP CSR1 costs. The main tasks anticipated for population size assessments include: reviewing of current definition of populations and revising them based on the latest taxonomy (as per BirdLife International/Handbook of the Birds of the World); collating and reviewing existing literature for population size estimate data (for some regions, review of literature in different languages requires additional effort); aligning information with WPE definition of population estimates and boundaries; updating of population size estimates and finalizing them in consultation with experts; and generating updated derived 1% thresholds. Proposed actions for population trend assessments include reviewing literature for new population trend estimates, proposing updated population trend estimates based on a review of the latest trends and trend analysis and finalizing population trends in consultation with experts. Trend analyses using International Waterbird Census data for the limited number of Central Asian Flyway populations not currently covered by the AEWA CSR8 will be undertaken.

9. The Intermediate and Minimum funding options would significantly reduce deliverables, particularly for the WPE2027 updates. Key reductions include:
 - **Waterbird Populations Portal:** Maintenance is limited to bug fixes only.
 - **WPE2027 Updates:** Fewer populations updated, with 1,600 populations in the Comprehensive option, 1,255 populations in the Intermediate option, and 743 populations in the Minimum option. Prioritization will be based on factors such as conservation status, data completeness, and regional importance.

10. Adequate resourcing is essential to the success of the Waterbird Estimates Partnership and the production of WPE2027. The Comprehensive funding option is recommended to ensure the full scope of updates and improvements are achieved. Should partial funding be provided, additional resource mobilization efforts will be necessary.