

## Information note for the Bureau of the Bern Convention Standing Committee:

### Progress of the AEWA Implementation Review Process case file No. 4 on plans for lowland afforestation in Iceland threatening breeding habitats of AEWA-listed waterbird species

Compiled by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

April 2020

This Implementation Review Process (IRP) case file was opened by the AEWA Standing Committee (StC) in early 2014 and has been undertaken as a joint case file with the Bern Convention Standing Committee (including the on-the-spot appraisal mission to Iceland in May 2016).

A detailed account of the case file from 2014 until the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) (December 2018) is available in the [report of the AEWA StC to MOP7 on the IRP](#) (pages 12-15).

Following MOP7, the AEWA StC and Secretariat worked closely with the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources of Iceland to address the points that were raised regarding earlier submissions by the Government of Iceland in response to the StC recommendations (see the report above).

In early December 2020 the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources of Iceland submitted to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat updated and extended responses to the StC recommendations (please see attachments 1-3 below). This submission was just a few days before the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AEWA StC (11-13 December 2019, Bristol, UK) and the Committee had limited time to review it.

The StC noted some of the progress made by Iceland in relation to this IRP case file, in particular the adoption by the Icelandic Parliament in May 2019 of a new legislation on forests and forestry. The StC commended Iceland for this development and decided to keep the case file open. The Secretariat was asked to analyse the latest submission more closely and prepare a draft reply to the Government of Iceland.

The StC agreed to ask regular (annual or more frequent) progress reports from the Government of Iceland on the implementation of the recommendations. Since identical recommendations were issued by both the AEWA and Bern Convention StCs, the schedule of requested progress reports shall be aligned and agreed by the two Committees.

**Action point:** The Bureau of the Bern Convention StC to suggest schedule (frequency and deadlines) for submission of progress reports according to its annual calendar.

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat will keep leading on the communication with the Government of Iceland and consult with the Bern Convention Secretariat.

**Attachment 1:** Cover email message of the submission by the Government of Iceland, Dec 2019

**Attachment 2:** Updated and extended responses to the StC recommendations submitted by the Government of Iceland, Dec 2019

**Attachment 3:** Annex to the updated and extended responses to the StC recommendations submitted by the Government of Iceland, Dec 2019