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7th MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
29 October - 01 November 2006, Bern, Switzerland

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WHITE-HEADED DUCK WORKING GROUP

INTRODUCTION

In its Resolution 3.12, operational paragraph 6, the Meeting of the Parties instructed the Secretariat “... to establish mechanisms, resources permitting, to co-ordinate the international implementation of existing and future Single Species Action Plans ...”.

The Secretariat decided to build on the existing networks for species conservation, where available (e.g. Wetlands International Species Specialist Groups), or to establish new networks in partnership with other organisations. For the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), after a consultation with the head of Species Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) of UK, it was agreed that WWT would take the lead in establishing and managing a White-headed Duck Working Group (WHDWG). The WWT Species Programme will also allocate staff time to coordinate WHDWG activities.

A formal Letter of Agreement determining the terms of operation and responsibility will be signed between the Secretariat and WWT.

ACTIONS REQUESTED FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Below is a draft of Terms of Reference for the White-headed Duck Working Group. The Technical Committee is invited to review them, make proposals and amendments as appropriate, and approve the ToR for further use.

Information document *Doc TC Inf 7.1* provides a summary of conclusions from the workshop on Flyway management for species of conservation concern that was convened during the Global Flyways Conference in Edinburgh in April 2004. This information paper may help the Technical Committee in the course of discussion over the draft ToR.

AEWA White-headed Duck Working Group

Terms of Reference

(Draft)

Goal

- To remove the White-headed Duck from Column A of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan.
- To remove the White-headed Duck from the IUCN Red List of threatened animals.
- In the short-term, to maintain the current population size and distribution of the species throughout its range, and in the medium to long term to promote increase in population size and range.

Role

The role of the AEWA White-headed Duck Working Group will be to coordinate the implementation of the International White-headed Duck Single Species Action Plan and monitor the effectiveness of its implementation.

Remit

The White-headed Duck Working Group will:

- determine the red list status and population size and trends of the White-headed Duck;
- determine conservation priorities for the White-headed Duck and communicate these to relevant organisations, Conventions and Range States via the AEWA Secretariat;
- draw up a list of priority projects and raise funds for their implementation;
- assist Range States in producing national action plans;
- update the international Single Species Action Plan in 2015 or as required;
- facilitate the expeditious exchange of scientific, technical and legal information needed to coordinate conservation measures, and cooperate with recognised scientists of international organisations and other Range States in order to facilitate their work conducted in relation to the Action Plan.

Membership

The White-headed Duck Working Group will comprise¹ (1) organisations, (2) individual experts, (3) Range State delegates from all major Range States:

Countries regularly supporting the White-headed Duck: Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, China, France, Georgia, Greece, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Countries where the introduced North American Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* occurs: Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Membership of the group is by² (1) invitation, (2) application and approval, (3) subscription.

¹ To be discussed and decided by the Technical Committee.

² To be discussed and decided by the Technical Committee.

Means of Operation

The White-headed Duck Working Group should aim to hold face-to-face meetings once every three years. Other face-to-face meetings may be arranged as circumstances allow (e.g. at the international White-headed Duck workshops being arranged as part of the UK Ruddy Duck eradication programme). Between meetings, business will be conducted electronically via the Working Group's website and list server.

The Working Group is to be chaired by a person to be elected by the Group's members and, resources permitting, a part- or full-time Coordinator shall be employed (to be hosted by one of the Working Group's member organisations/institutions).

The members from each country/range state shall designate one focal point for coordinating activities at national level and with the Working Group's Coordinator and/or Chair.

Reporting

A succinct report on the implementation of the action plan will be produced to a standard format and submitted for inclusion into the general triennial review on the stage of preparation and implementation of single species action plans to each AEWA Meeting of the Parties. Other reports will be produced as required by the AEWA Technical Committee or the Secretariat.