

1st Meeting of the AEWA European Seaduck International Working Group

9-10 December 2020 – *Online via GoToMeeting*

AEWA EUROPEAN SEADUCK INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Goals

- 1) The long-term goal is to restore the populations of European Seaducks for which AEWA International Single Species Action Plans have been adopted to favourable conservation status within the Agreement area and to remove these species/populations from the threatened categories of the IUCN Red List.

Role

The role of the AEWA European Seaduck International Working Group will be to:

- 1) coordinate and catalyse the implementation of the International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs) adopted for the following species¹:
 - Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*);
 - Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*);
- 2) stimulate and support Range States in the implementation of the ISSAPs; and
- 3) monitor and report on the implementation and the effectiveness of the ISSAPs.

Remit

The AEWA European Seaduck International Working Group will:

- 1) set priorities for action and implement them;
- 2) coordinate the overall international implementation;
- 3) raise funds for implementation;
- 4) assist Range States in producing national action plans;
- 5) ensure regular and thorough monitoring of the species populations;
- 6) stimulate and support scientific research in the species necessary for conservation;
- 7) promote the protection of the network of critical sites for the species;

¹ To be modified following the expected adoption of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) at MOP8 in 2021, as well as following the future adoption of any further AEWA International Action Plans for European seaducks.

- 8) facilitate internal and external communication and exchange of scientific, technical, legal and other required information, including with other specialists and interested parties;
- 9) assist with information in determination of the red list status and population size and trends of the species;
- 10) regularly monitor the effectiveness of implementation of the ISSAPs and take appropriate action according to the findings of this monitoring;
- 11) regularly report on the implementation of the ISSAPs to the Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA through the National Focal Points; and
- 12) update the international ISSAPs under its remit as required.

Membership

The AEWA European Seaduck International Working Group will comprise (1) designated representatives of national state authorities in charge of the implementation of AEWA and (2) representatives of national expert, conservation and sustainable use organisations as invited to the national delegations by the state authorities from all major Range States.

Countries forming the working group: Range States of the relevant European seaduck species.

The Chair of the AEWA European Seaduck International Working Group may invite and admit international expert and conservation organisations as well as individual experts as observers to the Working Group, as necessary.

Officers

A Chair of the AEWA European Seaduck International Working Group will be elected amongst its members.

A shared Coordinator post will be provided by Aarhus University and the University of Latvia (coordination will be provided in addition to his/her other duties). The Coordinators will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Working Group and shall act in close cooperation with the Chair and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

The designated representatives of national state authorities will act as National Focal Points for the ISSAPs and will be the main contact persons for the Chair and the Coordinator.

Meetings

The AEWA European Seaduck International 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. back-to-back meetings with other international fora). Between meetings, business will be conducted electronically via the Working Group's website and list server as well as online meetings.

Reporting

A thorough report on the implementation of the ISSAPs will be produced according to a standard format with contributions from all Range States and submitted for inclusion into the general International Review on the Stage of Preparation and Implementation of Single Species Action Plans to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties. Reports shall also be prepared by each Range State to a format agreed by the Working Group

and presented at each face-to-face meeting of the Working Group. Other reports will be produced as required by the AEWA Technical Committee or the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

Financing

The operations of the AEWA European Seaduck International Working Group, including the coordinator post, are to be financed primarily by its members and, if applicable, by its observers; the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and/or Aarhus University and the University of Latvia cannot commit regular financial support and may only provide such if possible. Funding for ISSAP activities of the Working Group or its members is to be sought from various sources by the various Working Group representatives for listed activities as per the relevant AEWA European Seaduck International Single Species Action Plans.