



**16<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
*25-29 January 2021, Virtual conference format*

---



**MEAs: bird taxonomy, nomenclature and Red Listing**

Teleconference (GoToMeeting online platform) 23 March  
2020, 10.00-12.00h Central European Time

Convened by UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

**Summary of agreed action points**

The meeting opened at 10.00h Central European Time and was attended by everyone on the list of participants but Stephen Garnett who sent apologies (see provisional list of participants in Annex I to this summary). Following brief introductions by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, the EAAFP Secretariat as well as by BirdLife International (see provisional agenda in Annex I), a discussion took place on establishing a routine two-way communication between MEAs and BirdLife International on taxonomic and nomenclature changes to the BirdLife International Checklist of the Birds of the World (the adopted bird taxonomic reference for AEWA, CMS and EAAFP).

The following action points were agreed upon:

- BirdLife to pro-actively communicate to the Secretariats of the different MEAs and Wetlands International (the latter for the purposes of the Waterbird Population Estimates) any upcoming changes to the taxonomy and/or nomenclature of the species relevant to the different MEAs during the course of each year before their enactment in the end of the calendar year;
- Taxonomic issues/proposals for review coming up during the AEWA Conservation Status Review process (particularly sub-species level taxonomy) to be referred to the BirdLife Taxonomic Working Group and to be prioritized for consideration by the Working Group, to the extent possible, so that they can be resolved and submitted to the forthcoming session of the AEWA Meeting of the Parties to be reflected in the annexes of the Agreement;
- Each Secretariat to establish bilaterally with BirdLife International the communication workflow on taxonomic and nomenclature matters;
- BirdLife to decide and inform the Secretariats whether their new online portal where suggestions for taxonomic changes can be uploaded would be the appropriate channel for submission of issues/proposals from the MEAs.

Upon concluding on the part of the agenda dealing with bird taxonomy and nomenclature, the participants of this call continued with a discussion on establishing a routine process of upcoming Red List updates submission to the attention of the MEAs. BirdLife International introduced the Red Listing process for birds undertaken in their capacity as the bird Red List Authority designated by IUCN.

While the global Red List process is currently for full (c. 11,000) species only, BirdLife is currently producing a regional Red List at EU scale (based largely on data reported by Member States under Article 12 of the Birds Directive), under an EC contract. This includes assessments of a subset of subspecific populations that occur in this region (principally those listed separately in the Annexes of the Birds Directive). The EAAFP Technical Sub-Committee highlighted the value of implementing such “population-based” Red List assessments, which would allow for greater official recognition of the declining status of such populations that are subject to different pressures and trends across their global range. Although discussed in the EAAF context, this could be relevant to populations elsewhere as well in future. The recently concluded CMS COP13 called for an in-depth

review of the conservation status of individual CMS-listed species, with a view to determining inter alia differences in the conservation status of individual populations or management units. Availability of subspecific Red List assessments would be a very significant component of this review, notably with a view to future revisions of the Appendices.

The following action points were agreed upon:

- BirdLife to discuss with IUCN the possibility of routinely maintaining the release of the Red List updates for birds in December of each year;
- BirdLife to communicate to the Secretariats potential changes to the Red List by September of each year that IUCN may sign off for release in December.

The online meeting was concluded at 12.00h Central European Time. The meeting was recorded and the recording is available upon request.

## Annex I

### *Provisional list of participants:*

#### AEWA

**Sergey Dereliev**, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat **Szabolcs Nagy**, Member of the AEWA Technical Committee, Wetlands International **Jeannine Dicken**, Programme Management Assistant, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

#### CMS

**Tilman Schneider**, Associate Programme Officer, Avian Unit, UNEP/CMS Secretariat

**Marco Barbieri**, Scientific Advisor, UNEP/CMS Secretariat

**Rob Clay**, Scientific Co-councilor – Avian, CMS Scientific Council, Manomet

**Stephen Garnett**, Scientific Co-councilor – Avian, CMS Scientific Council, Charles Darwin University (apologies)

#### EAAFP

**Doug Watkins**, Chief Executive, EAAFP Secretariat

**Hyeseon Do**, Programme Officer, EAAFP Secretariat

**Qing Zeng**, EAAFP Science Unit Coordinator / Science Officer, Beijing Forestry University **Nick Davidson**, Chair of the EAAFP Technical sub-Committee, Nick Davidson Environmental

**Taej Mundkur**, Member of the EAAFP Technical sub-Committee, Wetlands International

#### BirdLife International

**Ian Burfield**, Global Science Coordinator (Species) & Coordinator, Red List Authority for Birds, BLI Secretariat

**Vicky Jones**, Flyways Science Coordinator, BLI Secretariat

**Nicola Crockford**, Principal Policy Officer, RSPB

**Paul Donald**, Chair of the BirdLife Taxonomic Working Group, BLI Secretariat

*Provisional agenda:*

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Lead</b>
10.00h	Welcome and background	Sergey Dereliev
10.10h	Introduction – AEWA Annex 2 & 3 revisions (incl. Conservation Status Report)	Sergey Dereliev
10.15h	Introduction – CMS Appendices revisions	Tilman Schneider
10.20h	Introduction – EAAFP taxonomy and nomenclature revisions	Doug Watkins
10.25h	Introduction - BirdLife Checklist of the Birds of the World revisions (incl. Taxonomic Working Group workflow)	Ian Burfield & Paul Donald
10.35h	Discussion – establishing a routine two-way communication between MEAs and BirdLife on taxonomic and nomenclature changes	All
11.00h	Introduction – Red List updates (workflow and calendar)	Ian Burfield
11.10h	Discussion – establishing a routine process of RL updates submission to MEAs (in accordance with their calendars)	All
11.25h	Conclusions and closure	Sergey Dereliev