



AEWA EURASIAN CURLEW INTERNATIONAL  
WORKING GROUP



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**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group  
- *N. a. arquata* Breeding Range States –**

4-6 September 2018, Aberlady, Scotland (UK)

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WDRAFT work plan for the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group 2018-2021 (*N. a. arquata* Breeding range states)

| Project/activity  | Priority | Timeframe | Lead           | Detailed actions  | Budget  | Comments <u>and notes</u>   |
|---|----------|-----------|----------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Activities delivering towards Result 1.1. "Important breeding sites for Eurasian Curlew are appropriately protected and managed"</b>   |          |           |                |   |   |   |
| Explore opportunities to seek new resource at important breeding sites. Will include seeking funding opportunities that could support new Project Officers to coordinate conservation and monitoring work, building on the success of previous projects (e.g. the INTERREG-funded Halting Environmental Loss Project (HELP)). | HIGH     | 2019      | Dan Brown (DB) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DB to contact each IWG range state member to assess potential needs for each country or region</li> <li>2. DB to incorporate this information into the wider funding leaflet (see later in workplan)</li> <li>3. DB to speak to fundraising colleagues in BirdLife about potential funding sources and decide next steps from there</li> <li>4. DB to assess costs of such projects through speaking to staff involved in similar projects in the past</li> </ol> | None at present - these initial actions will be progressed by the IWG Coordinator | <p><u>DB – the HELP project is close to being written up and will be distributed to the IWG when it is. I am told it resulted in mostly positive results for 4 wader species including Eurasian Curlew.</u></p> <p>Every country has different priorities – new Project Officers to undertake these activities might only be required in certain countries or regions.-</p> <p>In some cases work on Eurasian Curlew will need to be undertaken as part of work including on a wider range of breeding wader species.</p> |
| <b>Activities delivering towards Result 1.2. "Important staging, stopover, and wintering sites for Eurasian Curlew are appropriately protected and managed"</b>   |          |           |                |   |   |   |
| Maintain action, and where considered beneficial, extend appropriate protection   | ONGOING  | rolling   | IWG members    |   | In-kind contribution from IWG members   | This activity is part of existing conservation frameworks in each country   |

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| measures, including monitoring.  |                  |                       |   |   |                                       |   |
| <b>Activities delivering towards Result 2.1. “The impact of farming operations on breeding success is minimised and beneficial farming practices are supported and encouraged”</b>   |                  |                       |   |   |                                       |   |
| Develop and distribute Rural Development Programme guidance for the breeding range states. The target audience will be stakeholders involved in rural policy formation and the guidance will be developed within the context of upcoming agricultural policy reform. | <b>IMMEDIATE</b> | October-December 2018 | Barry O'Donoghue                                | Prepare draft guidance and circulate to IWG members for comment.  | n/a                                   |   |
|  |                  | January 2019          | Barry, Dan                                      | Organize meeting in early 2019 between key Eurasian Curlew and agriculture experts to discuss and further refine guidance.                                | Unknown/tbc                           | Meeting should only go ahead if sufficient agricultural stakeholders agree to attend.   |
|  |                  | April 2019            | Dan, AEWA, all IWG members                      | Disseminate agreed guidance to all breeding range states at various levels of government, stakeholders, etc. before the start of the 2019 breeding season | In-kind contribution from IWG members |   |
| Continue to increase our understanding of fine-scale habitat usage by Curlew on their breeding grounds, to help inform future conservation land management options.  | <b>HIGH</b>      | 2019                  | Rachel Taylor                                   | Rachel to draft up summary text for the external funding document (see later) and estimation of project budgets.  | Unknown/tbc                           | Similar studies to the BTO's should be advocated for across the breeding range since ecological and habitat requirements are known to vary across the breeding range.<br><br>This research is linked to improving our wider understanding of why Eurasian Curlew are not producing enough young, due to resource availability, etc. |
| <b>Activities delivering towards Result 2.2. “Land management techniques that reduce levels of nest and chick predation to those associated with stable or increasing populations are promoted and investigated”</b>   |                  |                       |   |   |                                       |   |
| Collate and exchange available information on the effect predation is  | <b>HIGH</b>      | 2019 - 2020.          | Jutta Leyrer & Marc van Roomen through the IWSG | To be drafted by Mark and Jutta in liaison with other specialists in the IWSG.  | Unknown/tbc                           | This work should include identifying existing knowledge gaps as well as considering the need for further research on the role of landscape configuration and land management systems in influencing predation rates.  |

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| having on productivity.   |                  |                              |   |   |                          | This work should aim to develop a range-wide understanding of the issue, and take note of the fact that predator assemblages, breeding habitats, landscape configuration and land management systems can vary across the Eurasian Curlew's breeding range.<br><br>Ensure Conservation Evidence is utilised both for collating existing research and for publicising any papers that come to light during literature review (that are not already on Conservation Evidence): <a href="https://www.conservationevidence.com/collection/view">https://www.conservationevidence.com/collection/view</a> |
| Increase knowledge on food quality and availability for chicks (e.g. the decline of invertebrate food, etc.). | <b>HIGH</b>      | 2019 - 2020.                 | Jutta/Marc (IWSG)   | To be drafted by Mark and Jutta   | Unknown/tbc              |   |
| <b>Activities delivering towards Results 3.1. "Any harvest, if undertaken, is sustainable"</b>                |                  |                              |   |   |                          |   |
| Analysis/ assessment of potential Curlew "management units" based on available data (ring recoveries etc.)    | <b>IMMEDIATE</b> | Sept-Nov 2018                | France, whereby work is suggested to be commissioned outside of France. | Develop brief ToR in consultation with IWG?   | n/a                      | This work aims to assess which breeding populations are potentially affected by hunting in France, and to what degree.  |
|   |                  |                              |   | Commission analysis/ assessment   | Unknown/tbc              |   |
| Convene a flyway level process for AHM with all relevant range states.  | <b>IMMEDIATE</b> | Sept-Nov 2018                | France, AEWA Secretariat  | Establish timeframe/ roadmap for the process (what should happen when, what is needed – potential meeting in France to present process with AHM experts etc.) | n/a                      | See minutes of the meeting for further discussion of this issue and suggestions on how to take forward.   |
|   |                  |                              |   | Dec 2019  | France, AEWA Secretariat |   |
|   |                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2019 | France, AEWA Secretariat  | Convene first meeting with relevant range states and experts/stakeholders   | Unknown/tbc.             |   |

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| <b>Activities delivering towards Results 4.2. "The necessary data and information required to make a better understanding of <i>N. a. arquata</i> and <i>N. a. orientalis</i> populations in Russia is obtained.</b>  |           |                               |              |  |  |   |
| Increase monitoring efforts in Russia on the basis of agreed monitoring guidelines.   | HIGH      | 2019-                         | Tatiana      | Tatiana Sviridova to put together more detailed suggestions for activities in Russia and send to Dan and Nina.   | Unknown/<br>tbc                        |   |
| <b>Activities delivering towards Results 4.3. "Survey, monitoring and research activities on <i>N. a. arquata</i> are undertaken to address knowledge gaps and improve population and demographic gaps"</b>           |           |                               |              |  |  |   |
| Agree standard guidance for productivity monitoring   | IMMEDIATE | Ahead of next breeding season | Jutta Leyrer |  | In-kind contribution from IWG members. | This work is closely connected to the above activity (under Result 2.2.) concerning IWSG work on predation.<br><br>Dan: come up with something that already takes into account existing methodologies.  |
| Using the above, commit to undertake productivity monitoring at sites in most breeding range states in order to increase our collective understanding of population and demographic trends across the breeding range. | IMMEDIATE | For next breeding season      | All          | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage existing staff at nature reserves, wader conservation projects etc to incorporate this into their work programme, noting the high priority status of curlew and the fact that other planned survey work might have to be dropped in order to enable it to occur.</li> <li>2. Advertise for volunteers to help undertake these surveys</li> </ol> | In-kind contribution from IWG members. | <p>Camilla: In Denmark we are not monitoring breeding, only wintering Eurasian Curlew – this would require new resources</p> <p>The priority will likely be to collect data in areas where French-shot birds are already known to breed (or discovered to breed in the future - as results from satellite tracking studies emerge).</p> <p>Marc: what is the need for the productivity data, where are you going to use this data?</p> <p>Danny: discussion to be had</p> <p>Marc: suggest something in workplan already</p> <p>Barry: we should be doing this but we must recognise it will not be possible in some places due to lack of resources.</p> <p>Rachel: take appropriate samples of stable isotopes - build up atlas to define breeding and moulting sites. Would contribute beautifully into all the other monitoring. Something everyone would have to do together.</p> <p>Adriaan – sampling can be undertaken at a relatively low cost but we would need to consider in more detail the more expensive analysis.</p> |

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| Share and collate information on ongoing, planned and completed satellite-tracking and colour-ringing of Eurasian Curlew amongst the IWG range states. | HIGH     | Before 2019 breeding season | Led by Dan and with input from the IWG | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruit a volunteer to coordinate this work</li> <li>2. Volunteer to contact experts over the winter 2019/20 to obtain and collate data and views</li> <li>3. Publish report of known studies, known migration patterns and recommendations for where it would be best to focus tracking studies in the future.</li> </ol> | In-kind contribution from IWG members | <p>We need to identify what the range-wide priorities are in terms of knowledge gaps and future tracking. A consensus on this from IWG members will be useful for discussions with donors.</p> <p>The focus should be on sharing results - not raw data.</p> <p>Connectivity includes both on a migratory scale at a local scale.</p> <p>IWSG is already doing this for colour-ringing.</p> <p>Mary – a curlew app with calls could be useful.</p> |
| <b>Activities delivering towards Results 4.4. “The impact of other poorly-understood threats is investigated”</b>                                      |          |                             |  |  |                                       |  |
| Undertake collation of poorly understood threats (e.g. senescence, human disturbance) to help define priority research areas for the future.           | Medium   | 2019-                       | Jutta/IWSG                             |  | Unknown/tbc                           | Details for collaboration between IWG and the IWSG are to be discussed   |
| <b>Over-arching activities</b>   |          |                             |  |  |                                       |  |
| Discuss frameworks for future delivery of the EC ISSAP by identifying areas of overlap with the work of the IWSG, the Black-tailed Godwit ISSAP, the   | HIGH     | Early 2019                  | <b>AEWA Secretariat</b>                | Liaise with the European Commission, BirdLife International, AEWA BTG IWG, IWSG on how to identify the overlap and align the various processes.  | n/a                                   |  |

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| EU MSAP for Breeding Waders and a possible 'Friends of the Curlew' group.  |          |                        |  |  |        |  |
| Implement additional awareness-raising activities that highlight the plight of the Eurasian Curlew to the public and to key stakeholders | High     | November-December 2018 | Dan, Nina  | Launch AEWA Eurasian Curlew IWG website.   |        |  |
|  | High     | November-December 2018 | Barry, Nina  | Produce short video highlighting plight of Curlew in Ireland in time for AEWA MOP.               |        |  |
|  | Medium   |                        | Nicola Crockford, BirdLife International, Mary Colwell | Friends of the Curlew concept to be developed.   |        | Linked to World Curlew Day<br><br>Stand-alone funding proposal: Friends of the Curlew online portal. LIFE communication project (match-fund up to 60%). If and when the MSAP is adopted, there could be a portal that deals with all waders – including Eurasian Curlew. This could help inform site managers, stakeholders as well as the general public. |
|  | Medium   |                        | Jutta  | Focus on awareness-raising and give consideration to meadow-bird friendly agricultural products. |        |  |
| Include Eurasian Curlew in CMS Family Champions Programme  | High     | October-November 2018  | Dan, Nina  |  |        |  |