



AEWA BENGUELA COASTAL SEABIRDS
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP



**1st Meeting of the AEWA Benguela Coastal Seabirds
International Working Group**

3-4 March 2021, online via GoToMeeting

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AEWA Benguela Coastal Seabirds International Working Group

Terms of Reference

Goals

- To restore Benguela seabird species to a favourable conservation status by 2040.

Role

The role of the AEWA Species Working Group will be to:

- 1) coordinate and catalyse the implementation of the AEWA International Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Current Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds (IMSAP), adopted by the AEWA Meeting of the Parties at MOP6 in 2015;
- 2) stimulate and support Range States in the implementation of the IMSAP; and
- 3) monitor and report on the implementation and the effectiveness of the IMSAP.

Remit

The AEWA Benguela Coastal Seabirds International Working Group will:

- set priorities for action and implement them;
- coordinate the overall international implementation;
- raise funds for implementation;
- assist Range States in producing national action plans;
- ensure regular and thorough monitoring of the species populations;
- stimulate and support scientific research in the species necessary for conservation;
- promote the protection of the network of critical sites for the species;
- facilitate internal and external communication and exchange of scientific, technical, legal and other required information;
- assist with information in determination of the red list status and population size and trends of the species;
- regularly monitor the effectiveness of implementation of the IMSAP and take appropriate action according to the findings of this monitoring;
- regularly report on the implementation of the IMSAP to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties through the National Focal Points; and
- update the IMSAP in 2026 or as required.

Membership

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

Countries regularly supporting the species: Angola, Namibia, South Africa

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

Officers

A Chairperson of the Species Working Group will be elected amongst its members.

A part-time Coordinator is currently being provided by BirdLife South Africa. In future range states may wish to contribute to the costs of the Coordinator post. The Coordinator will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Species Working Group and shall act in close cooperation with the Chairperson and the AEWA Secretariat.

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

Meetings

The Species 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 a Species Working Group's website and list server.

Reporting

A thorough report on the implementation of the IMSAP 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 Species Working Group and presented at each face-to-face meeting of the Species Working Group. Other reports will be produced as required by the AEWA Technical Committee or the AEWA Secretariat.

Financing

The operations of the Species Working Group, including the coordinator post, are to be financed primarily by its members and, if applicable, by its observers; the AEWA Secretariat or BirdLife South Africa cannot commit regular financial support and may only provide such if possible. Funding for IMSAP activities of the Species Working Group or its members is to be sought from various sources, including project funding.