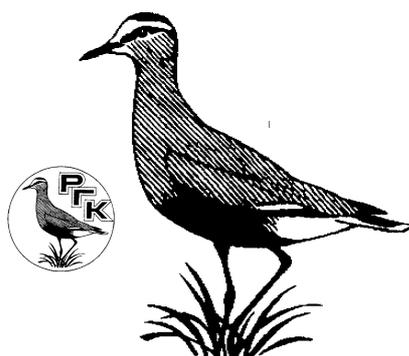


DRAFT INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE SOCIABLE LAPWING

Chettusia gregaria



This draft International Action Plan for the Sociable Lapwing *Chettusia gregaria* was commissioned by the Secretariat of [Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds](#) -(UNEP/ AEWASecretariat)Agreement and European Division of BirdLife International, and was prepared by the Russian Bird Conservation Union (BirdLife International Partner Designate in Russia) together with Working Group on Waders (CIS), which logo is used here to illustrate the species.

Note from compilers of the first draft: as this Action Plan is mainly oriented for practical conservation actions, biological and ecological information provided in the text does not include references. Key references with indication of what type of information was used can be found as part of Terminology section.

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November 2001

Summary

What is the profile of the Sociable Lapwing?

Sociable Lapwing breeds currently in Kazakhstan and central part of southern (further "south-central") Russia. Breeding range includes northern and central Kazakhstan, and in Russia extends currently from Volgograd region, southern Urals, across Chelyabinsk, Kurgan, Omsk and Novosibirsk regions towards surroundings of Barnaul in the Altai. Within this area the species is very much scattered, numbers are low and declining. On migration Sociable Lapwings are found in large range of countries of Middle, Central and Southern Asia (Afganistan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tadjikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan). Countries of primary importance for wintering are Iraq, Israel, Eritrea, Oman, Pakistan, and India. Records of vagrant birds are also known from China, Lebanon, Marocco, Mongolia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and many European countries. The population has undergone significant and rapid decline in the second half of XX century, and is considered ongoing. Population size is estimated now in not more than 10,000 adult individuals (which is rather optimistic estimate in Collar et al., 1994, Tucker and Heath, 1994), or, even more. Currently it has not more than 1,000 breeding pairs in the total range of the species (Khrokov 2000; BirdLife International, 2001). The Sociable Lapwing is listed in Appendix I and II of the Bonn Convention, in Column A categorie 1a 1b 1c of table 1 of the AEWA, in the List of Globally Threatened Bird Species (BirdLife International, 2000), and in the IUCN Red List. It is included as Vulnerable in Red Data Book of Asia due to lack of data on the reasons of population decline. Although included in the Red Data Book of ex-USSR countries, no practical conservation measures are undertaken at the moment.

Why an international Action Plan for the Sociable Lapwing Should we make reference to the Action Plan of AEWA paragraph 2.2.1. which states that Parties shall cooperate in developing and implementing species action plans for species listed in Column A category 1.?

There are four primary reasons for Action Plan: (1) population of Sociable Lapwing continues to decline; (2) global population of the species is 1,500-3,000 breeding pairs, or most probably even less, under 1,000 breeding pairs; (3) reasons for the ongoing decline unknown, and it is even unclear whether the main threats are now at breeding or at stopover and wintering sites; (4) no practical conservation measures have been taken so far. Proposed Action Plan addresses these issues with the final aim to implement them to secure the Sociable Lapwing in favourable condition throughout the species range.

What is the basis of the Action Plan?

The Action Plan is based on the analysis of all available published information on Sociable Lapwing *Chettusia gregaria*, and on the results of extensive consultation processes. Besides, the Workshop on the Sociable Lapwing which took place in Moscow in February 2002 (the workshop has still to take place?) provided an opportunity to incorporate the variety of knowledge, opinions and suggestions by the experts on the species into the final draft of this Action Plan.

What is the objective of the Action Plan?

The general objective of the plan is to ensure that population of the Sociable Lapwing becomes stable (or do we want retain a favourable conservation status? This includes even growth of the population) Maybe you should make a difference between short term objective and long term objectives as a result of conservation initiatives such as habitat conservation measures, protection of colonies and wintering and stopover sites etc. based on the adequate understanding of threats and limiting factors, and taking into account habitat requirements of the species throughout the annual cycle.

What does the Action Plan consist of?

The Action Plan presents a framework for conservation of the Sociable Lapwing and its' habitats. Measurable objectives are set at national and international level, and management options given for each country.

Which countries are involved?

Implementation of the Action Plan requires effective international co-ordination of organisation and action. Countries especially involved with the implementation are Russia and Kazakhstan (breeding), India, Israel, Eritrea, Oman, Pakistan (wintering), and Afganistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tadjikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan (migration).

What should these countries do?

There should be commitment of all individual Range States. These should develop their own National Action Plans. In these Action Plans, management activities should be described, on the basis of the management options that have been presented in this International Action Plan.

How should the Action Plan be implemented?

A working group under the Technical Committee of the AEWA should be established for implementation of Single Species Action Plans.

Activities mandated to the working group are listed. The plan should be formally adopted at the Second Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA , which will take place from 26-29 September 2002, Bonn, Germany~~the next meeting of the AEWA in _____~~, and be reviewed every three years thereafter.

Please note that not only the Russian Federation is not a Party to AEWA. In my view each Range State for this species should develop an National Action Plan based on the International Plan. As Russian Federation is so far not the Party to the AEWA, it is recommended that National Action Plan is to be developed by _____, and endorsed by the Government of Russian Federation.

1. Introduction

Sociable Lapwing *Chettusia gregaria* is protected according to national legislation all over its' breeding range in Russia and Kazakhstan. However the decline of species population which was observed throughout the entire 20th century, and most notably in the beginning of the century, in 1950s (from 1930 to 1960) and then further in 1970 to 1990s, requires urgent measures to be undertaken by the AEWA Range States, as well as by the states which did not yet join this international agreement but which hold responsibility for survival of Sociable Lapwing on breeding, migration and wintering.

This Action Plan describes and evaluates current knowledge on ecology, habitat requirements, and seasonal distribution of Sociable Lapwing, as well as conservation measures which have to be undertaken both on governmental and non-governmental levels to ensure that the decline of species population does not continue further. The plan also outlines the most urgent requirements to cover existing gaps in current knowledge about this species and its population decline. Although habitat transformation on breeding grounds has so far been indicated as the main reason for species population decline in the middle of 20th century, the factors which influence this decline further in the end of 1990s are not so clear and are probably related to the state of habitats in areas of migration stopovers and wintering. These issues have to be clarified, and are thus considered among the most urgent activities which will determine successful implementation of this Action Plan.

The overall objectives of the Action Plan are:

- In the short-term (3 years)
 1. To define main factors affecting population of Sociable Lapwing in the areas of breeding, migration and wintering, and to undertake actions to reduce negative impact of the key negative factors.
 2. To organise co-ordinated targeted research to clarify general population characteristics such as current distribution, seasonal changes in habitat requirements, breeding success, mortality rates and causes of mortality, migratory links / distribution of birds from certain breeding areas to particular migration corridors and wintering grounds.
 3. To ensure that all appropriate actions defined in this Action Plan are undertaken in order to stop further decline of Sociable Lapwing throughout its range.
- In the long-term (20 years)
 1. To turn the population trend of Sociable Lapwing backwards (to number increase), and the species occurring with stable or increasing numbers within the "traditional" breeding and wintering ranges of the 20th century.

To reach successfully these short-term and long-term objectives the following measures have to be undertaken:

- International cooperation between individual experts, governmental and non-governmental bodies of all species range states must be ensured to guarantee the development and implementation of adequate monitoring and research, conservation, habitat management and other relevant activities provided by the Action Plan for the benefit of Sociable Lapwing
- Working Group on Sociable Lapwing must be established and operate under the AEWA Secretariat (or leading role delegated to one of the bodies of Sociable Lapwing range states)
- To control human activities affecting negatively Sociable Lapwing in breeding, migration or wintering areas

- To ensure that adequate legislation for conservation of Sociable Lapwing exists (or amended if relevant) and is enforced by all range states
- To develop new mechanisms of international co-operation, including potentially required subsidies for habitat management in areas occupied by Sociable Lapwing to ensure that no detrimental human activities take place in the areas of breeding, migration stopovers or wintering of this species

The Plan presents operational and measurable objectives, and management options to achieve these objectives. It is a framework to ensure the coherence of and communication about, the national plans. The framework leaves room for manoeuvre for the Range States to tune their management policy to the national situation, as long as the objectives are achieved.

The success of the Action Plan depends to a large extent on: Please mention also support for the implementation of the Action Plan.

1. the efforts of the Range States to draw up and communicate National Action Plans;
- 3.2. implementation aspects such as: a time frame for monitoring and evaluation and for the communication of progress and activities in the different Range States, insight into budgetary consequences;
- 4.3. organizational matters such as: a clear vision on the role of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Technical Committee and a decision on the potential establishment of a new working group in this committee (or delegation of this role to a body, such as potential Sociable Lapwing Working Group).

The Plan applies for a period of 3 years, after which it will be evaluated and reviewed.

2. Biological assessment

General information	The Sociable Lapwing <i>Chettusia gregaria</i> is a small migratory wader species which breeds in Kazakhstan and south-central Russia between 47° and 53°N, and winters in south-western Asia and north-eastern Africa in the zone from 10° to 30°N. During breeding season it can be found in dry steppes and semi-deserts, mainly in areas with feather grass <i>Stipa pennata</i> and/or wormwood <i>Artemisia spp.</i> steppe habitats, and often in association with saltmarsh areas.
Population development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First decline which is not fully documented probably happened in the end of 19th – the beginning of 20th century when last cases of breeding were supposed in eastern Ukraine. • Major decline in 1940s, supposed to be the result of habitat deterioration on breeding grounds, i.e. ploughing of virgin steppes (confirmed reduction of numbers on migration in the Lower Don area to complete absence after 1968; in central parts of Northern Kazakhstan numbers declined 2 to 4 times by 1960s compared to 1930s); decline observed at wintering grounds in Pakistan and India. Last records in Sudan. • Further decline in 1970s-1980s which coincides with reduction of breeding range (15.6% decline from 1986 to 1991 in Pavlodar region, Kazakhstan; disappeared in Saratov region; in Kourgaldzhyn area, Kazakhstan, numbers reduced twice from 1970 to 1972); numbers also declined further at the wintering grounds in India. No birds found anymore in Egypt. • On-going population decline by the end of 1990s, confirmed by data from several surveys in areas where Sociable Lapwing was formerly rather common on breeding. In early 1990s breeding densities in northern Kazakhstan were an order of magnitude lower than in 1930s, while flock sizes were two orders of magnitude lower. By the end of the century it became an extremely rare species in south-east of the breeding range and no breeding records were done in the European part of the former breeding range. Possibly it is not European breeding bird anymore. The only recent records from wintering areas in India are from Haryana and Rajasthan (50 birds or usually less, and not every year).
Distribution throughout the annual cycle	<p>In January is at wintering grounds in Israel, Erithrea, Oman, Pakistan and India (data on wintering extremely scarce)</p> <p>In February large flocks in Iraq, first migrants are present in Uzbekistan, latest individuals usually leave Pakistan and India</p> <p>In March Sociable Lapwing migrates through Turkey and the Caucasus States, Turkmenistan and Tadjikistan, appears in southern Kazakhstan</p> <p>In April latest Sociable Plover leave the Red Sea, Turkey and Pakistan wintering grounds, while earliest already occupy southern breeding grounds; start egg-laying in Central Kazakhstan; latest migrants still observed in Uzbekistan</p> <p>In May birds arrive to northern Kazakhstan; start of the main breeding season</p> <p>In June are on breeding grounds in Russia and Kazakhstan; hatching of chicks from mid June</p> <p>In July first fledglings observed on breeding grounds (early July); in the middle of the month form groups/flocks and start movements; first birds appear on migration in Uzbekistan</p> <p>In August main departure from Kazakhstan and Russia, in the middle of this month birds reach Uzbekistan, southern Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan</p> <p>In September latest birds leave Central Kazakhstan and Russia; first records in Sri Lanka, Syria, Egypt</p> <p>In October in small numbers appear in Iraq, in arid areas of Sudan and Erithrea</p> <p>In November last migrants still in Turkmenistan, but most reach wintering grounds in the countries surrounding the Red Sea and in India and Pakistan</p> <p>In December is at wintering grounds in Israel, Erithrea, Oman, Pakistan, India</p>

Productivity	<p>Knowledge is very poor, from the available scarce data low breeding success is obvious. Mortality on breeding (eggs, chicks and young) varies from 7% to 87%-100%</p> <p>Main reasons for this are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trampling of nests by grazing cattle • High predation rate, namely by Rooks <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>, Corsak Foxes <i>Vulpes corsak</i> and Red Foxes <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> • Human disturbance.
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Life history	Breeding:	Feeding:	Migration:
	<p>Occupies virgin steppes; prefers grazed areas with dry clay and scarce wormwood or wormwood/feather grass associations, often with saltmarshes. Often breeds close to human settlements</p> <p>Pairs formation starts already during spring migration</p> <p>Breeds in loose colonies of 2–30 pairs, with nests 20–200 m apart. Distance between adjacent colonies may exceed 35-75 km and more</p> <p>Colonial breeding (behaviour) determines successful reproduction (protection against predators)</p> <p>Clutch size 2-4, rarely 5 eggs</p> <p>Incubation mainly by female during 21-25 days</p> <p>Fledging period ca. 33-37 days</p> <p>Mortality on breeding (eggs, chicks and young) varies from 7% to 87%-100%</p>	<p>On breeding grounds almost entirely insectivorous, mainly beetles and their larvae, grasshoppers, and moth larvae</p> <p>Similar diet (insects) is known from Indian wintering grounds</p> <p>In Punjab, Pakistan, known to eat freshly sown grains and green caterpillars in winter</p>	<p>In spring migrates in small flocks 5 to 15 individuals, while on autumn migration might form large flocks up to 100 individuals (formerly, in the middle of 20th century, up to 1000 birds)</p> <p>Spring migration lasts late February till May (depending on the region)</p> <p>Autumn migration is prolonged even within one area: e.g. in Turkmenistan from August till late November</p> <p>Former migration in broad front now goes probably in two main corridors: one from north-east Africa and the Middle East across Caspian Sea area, another from India and Pakistan across Afghanistan and Central Asia</p> <p>Direction of spring migration presumably has changed from northern to north-eastern in the area north of the Caspian Sea. This might be a reflection of breeding range contraction</p>

Habitat requirements	Breeding habitat:	Autumn and winter:	Spring habitat:
	<p>Dry steppes and semi-deserts, mainly in areas with feather grass <i>Stipa pennata</i> and/or wormwood <i>Artemisia spp</i> steppe habitats, and usually in saltmarsh areas close to wet patches.</p> <p>Grazed or heavily grazed areas with low vegetation cover are preferred</p> <p>Seldom breeds in spring crops on arable land</p> <p>After sharp decline in 1970s breeding was observed in grassland areas among sand dunes between Volga and Ural rivers</p> <p>Avoid areas with taller and dense vegetation</p>	<p>Dry plains, sandy wastes and short-grass areas, often adjacent to water.</p> <p>Prefers dry cultivated or semi-cultivated tracts rather than stony or sandy wastes and deserts</p> <p>Often fed in wheat fields in Pakistan</p>	<p>Apparently the same as breeding habitat.</p>

The geographical scope of Sociable Lapwing

Countries of Breeding	Countries of Migration	Countries of Wintering	Countries of Vagrancy
Kazakhstan Russian Federation	Afghanistan Armenia [last record in 1996] Azerbaijan Bahrain Iran, Islamic Republic of Kuwait Kyrgyzstan Qatar Saudi Arabia Syria Tajikistan Turkey Turkmenistan United Arab Emirates Uzbekistan	Eritrea India Israel Oman Pakistan Sri Lanka Iraq ? Ethiopia ? Egipt ? Sudan	Belgium Britain China Cyprus France Georgia Germany Greece Hungary Ireland Italy Jordan Lebanon Maldives Malta Morocco Mongolia Netherlands Poland Romania Spain Swetherland Ukraine former Chechoslovakia

Knowledge on Sociable Lapwing

This quality of knowledge on Sociable Lapwing has to be assessed during the Workshop to define the priority areas for targeted research and monitoring which is needed to reach the objectives of this Action Plan. Preliminary information for each country is suggested on the basis of available literature. 0 – no data; 1 – very little data; 2 – qualified guesses; 3 – good quantitative knowledge

Country	PopSize	Distribution	Timing/ presence	Habitat use	Key negative factors
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0
Armenia	0	0	1	0	0
Azerbaijan	0	0	1	0	0
Bahrain	0	0	0	0	0
Eritrea	1	1	1	0	0
India	2	2	2	2	0
Iran	1	1	1	0	0
Iraq	1	1	1	0	0
Israel	1	1	1	1	0
Kazakhstan	2	2	3	3	2
Kuwait	1	1	1	0	0
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1	1	0
Oman	1	1	0	0	0
Pakistan	2	2	2	2	0
Qatar	1	1	1	0	0
Russia	2	1	3	3	2
Saudi Arabia	0	0	1	0	0
Sri Lanka	1	1	1	0	0
Syria	0	0	1	0	0
Tajikistan	0	1	1	1	0
Turkey	0	1	1	1	0
Turkmenistan	1	1	1	1	0
United Arab Emirates	0	1	1	0	0
Uzbekistan	1	1	1	1	0

3. Human Activities

This chapter gives an overview of current human activities potentially affecting the Sociable Lapwing population and their relevance by country

Overview of human activities / threats related to the Sociable Lapwing

Human activities potentially affecting the Sociable Lapwing population can be subdivided into three categories:

1. Human activities / threats potentially affecting the Sociable Lapwing population;
- 3.2.** Human activities / threats affecting the quality of the habitat, such as deterioration and contamination
- 5.3.** Human activities / threats affecting the quantity of the habitat, such as land claims for urban and industrial developments

Threats / human activities potentially affecting currently the Sociable Lapwing population and their relevance by country

(To be ammended and filled in at the workshop)

Threats:	Russia	Kazakhstan	Migration Europe	Migration Asia	Winter Africa & MidEast	Wintering Asia
Habitat loss						
Overgrazing						
Reduced grazing						
Agriculture intensification						
Land abandonment						
Afforestation						
Drainage						
Irrigation						
Dam construction						
Oil extraction and transport						
Gas extraction and transport						
Other habitat loss (specify)						
Persecution / disturbance						
Hunting						
Illegal hunting						
Taking of eggs / nestlings						
Human disturbance						
Pollution						
Use of agricultural chemicals / pesticides						
Oil spills						
Climate change						
Desertification						
Increased rainfall						
Other climate change						
Development						
Urbanisation						
Tourism						
Industry						
Roads, railways						
Other types of threats						
Predation by other species						
Other (please specify)						

 High relevance

 Limited relevance

 No relevance

4 Policies and Legislation

In this chapter, an overview will be given of relevant national and international policies and legislation. Legislation regarding transport, agriculture, etc. will not be discussed, although they may have a considerable indirect influence on the Sociable Lapwing population.

International policies and legislation

Title	Work title	Year	Objective and relevance
Convention on Wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitats	Ramsar Convention	1971	Stem increasing destruction of wetland habitats, by designating wetlands for inclusion on a list of "Wetlands of international importance". Conservation and wise use of these wetlands. Compensate for loss of wetlands. Consultation about implementation of the Convention.
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	Bonn Convention	1979	Concerted action for the conservation and effective management of migratory species. Consists of two appendices: Appendix I: animals requiring strict protection. Appendix II: animals for which agreements need to be made for the conservation and management these species. AEWA is an example of such an agreement. AEWA stimulates Single Species Action Plans. The Sociable Lapwing falls within the Appendix I of the AEWA
<u>Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds</u>	<u>AEWA</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>The Sociable Plover is one of the 172 species included in Annex 2 to the Agreement. Furthermore In Annex 3 the Action Plan the species is listed in table 1 Column A category 1a 1b 1c. In accordance to Action Plan high proritru should be given by the Parties to conservation activities for species listed in Column A category 1 whereas developing and implementing of International Species Action Plans.</u>
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	Bern Convention	1979	Conservation of wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several states. "Special attention be given to the protection of areas that are of importance for the migratory species specified in Appendices II and III (incl. most birds) and which are appropriately situated in relation to migration routes as wintering, staging, feeding, breeding or moulting areas".
EU Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds	EU Birds Directive	1979	Conservation of birds and bird habitats by European co-operation. Establish network of protected areas: Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The Sociable Lapwing is listed in Annex I. The Birds Directive laid the foundation for the Habitats Directive.
EU Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora	EU Habitats Directive	1992	Establish strategic network (Natura 2000) of European Habitats and protect the most threatened species in Europe. Implementation behind schedule. Countries have to submit lists of "Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)". Two annexes list habitat types and species. The article 6 obligations of the Habitats Directive also have to be implemented in the Special Protection Areas of the Birds Directive.
Convention on Biological Diversity	Biodiversity Convention	1992	Maintain a sustainable diversity and spread of flora and fauna across the world. Each contracting party shall develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
Convention on Desertification ??			Not sure at all this is already signed; to be clarified for Workshop. Might be of high relevance reg. Wintering grounds

NB: The European Directives and international conventions can have different legal implications: the special legal status of EU Directives makes it possible to enforce implementation through the European Court of Justice, whereas the legal implications of conventions depend on their translation into national legislation

Threat and Convention status for the Sociable Lapwing *Chettusia gregaria*

IUCN ¹	European Status ²	SPEC category ²	EU Birds Directive Annex ³	Bern Convention Annex ⁴	Bonn Convention Annex ⁵	African-Eurasian Migratory Water Bird Agreement ⁶
V	E	1	I	II	I	A1 – <i>ááóí!</i>

¹ IUCN (World) Status as in BirdLife International (2000) *Threatened Birds of the World*. Spain and Cambridge, U.K.: Lynx Editions and BirdLife International. Categories: C = Critically endangered, E = Endangered; V = Vulnerable; D = Declining; L = Localised; R = Rare; LR = Lower Risk, DD = data deficient, cd = conservation dependent, nt = near threatened, lc = least concern, S = Secure.

² Tucker G.M & Heath M.F. (1994). *Birds in Europe: their Conservation Status*. Cambridge UK: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation series no. 3). E - endangered, Status provisional, SPEC category 1 – large decline, <2,500 pairs.

³ The species shall be subjected of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.

⁴ Give special attention to the protection of areas that are of importance (Article 4) and ensure the special protection of the species (Article 6). For more details see the Convention text

⁵ Animals for which agreements need to be made for the conservation and management of these species. For more details see the Convention text

⁶ A1 – listed as threatened in the 1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals; or population which number less than around 10,000 individuals. [*òà êâ AEWA Action Plan!*]

National policies, legislation and activities

National policies affecting Sociable Lapwing	Russia	Kazakhstan	Migration Europe	Migration Asia	Winter Africa & MidEast	Wintering Asia
<i>Species</i>						
Legal protection status in all areas and periods	A	A				
Research	No					
Regular population census and monitoring	No					
<i>(Semi)-natural habitat</i>						
Site protection	No					
Site management	No					
Monitoring (use) of protected sites	No					
<i>Man-made habitats</i>						
Promotion of appropriate agricultural policies	No					
Policies to reduce potential agricultural conflicts	No					
<i>International co-operation</i>						
Regular meetings to discuss international monitoring	No					



Activity



No activity

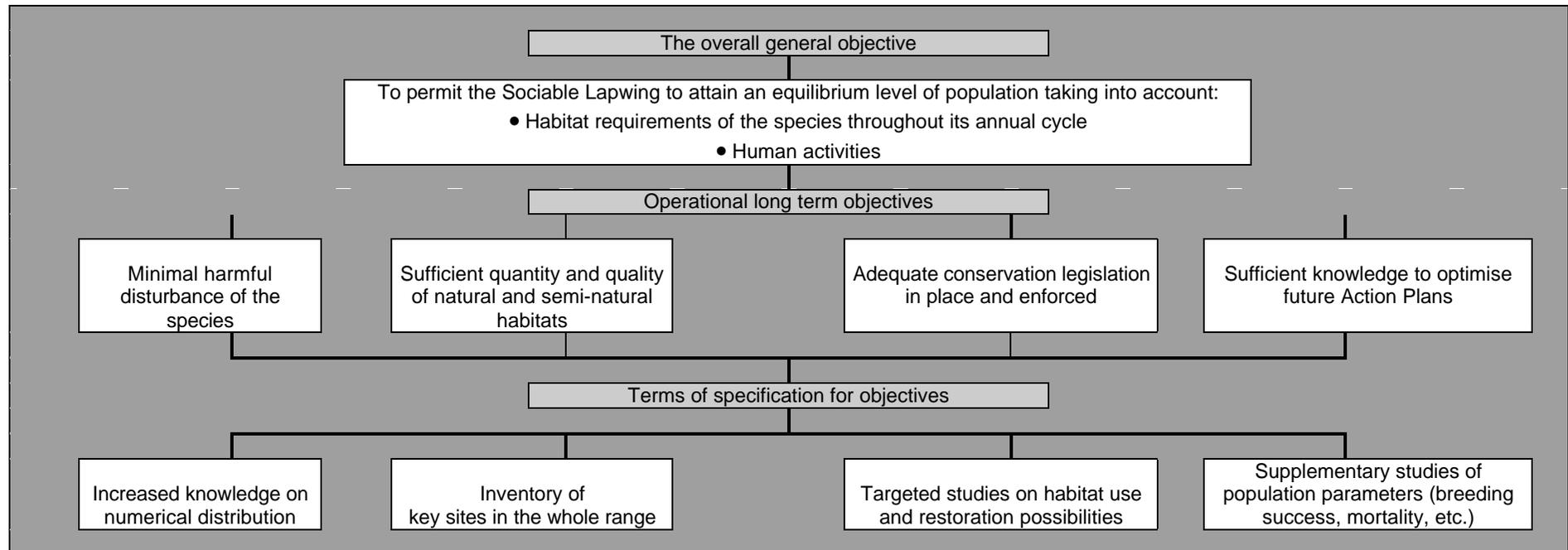


not applicable

5 Framework for Action

The individual countries on the Sociable Lapwing geographical range are responsible for the success of this Action Plan. Without the commitment of the Range States and all interests groups concerned, the Action Plan will remain ineffective. In this chapter the framework of objectives and a list of subjects that need to be taken up in the National Action Plans are presented.

Framework for Action



Measurable objectives

Increased knowledge on numerical distribution	Inventory of key sites in the whole range	Targeted studies on habitat use and restoration possibilities	Supplementary studies of population parameters (breeding success, mortality, etc.)
<p>Within three years, each country should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• complete inventory of current distribution and population size• initiate monitoring programme including population size and trends•	<p>Within three years, each country should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• completed an updated inventory of key sites (see Appendix II);• located and determined habitat threats to sites of international importance;• given indications of how to improve the status of these areas	<p>Within three years, each country should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• make detailed studies of habitat use and potential threats to Sociable Lapwing;• make a plan with actions to be undertaken to restore habitat quality and quantity where appropriate	<p>Within three years, each country should have / provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• information for analysis of overall population parameters including breeding success, mortality rate, impact of threats etc.;• population monitoring data available

All National Action Plans should include:

All actions need to have a time frame Are all areas where the species might occur known. If not we should include surveys on poorly know areas. Furthermore I have the feeling that financial resources could be a problem to implement the Action Plan, we should address this too on several places in this AP.

- Regular survey of geographical distribution and numbers
- A comprehensive survey of key sites and their protection status
- Survey of / actions to improve existing policies and legislation (See chapter 4)
- Survey of threats / human activities (See chapter 3)
- Overview of present or expected threats to sites of international importance (1% of the total population, 50 birds)
- Survey of present or expected threats to sites of national importance
Proposed management options to deal with these threats (See chapter 5 and 6)
- Identification and localisation of “stakeholders” for each of key sites
- Provisions for maintenance of habitat quality / quantity
- Provisions for habitat restoration, where appropriate
- Elaboration and implementation of monitoring and control systems (See chapter 7)
- Identification of financial consequences / responsibilities
- Communication plan (with AEWA, governmental- and non-governmental organisations, and Sociable Lapwing Working Group when set up)
- Public awareness and training plan
- Overall expected effects of measures taken

6 Action by country (to be ammended and/or filled in during Workshop)

To assist the Range States in developing their own National Action Plans, in this chapter per Range State objectives, management options and the relation between the national objectives and the international objectives are presented.

Priority; H: high, M: medium, L: low

Breeding areas (Russia and Kazakhstan)

Internat. Objective	Priority	National management options / actions	Measurable objective
Increase knowledge on numerical distribution	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each country undertakes extensive surveys to assess numbers, distribution, population trends to have best possible knowledge on these issues System to monitor and assess changes in numbers and distribution developed and its' operation started 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Current distribution map available per country and overall breeding range ✓ System to monitor and assess changes in numbers and distribution in place
Inventory of key sites in the whole range	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All available published and unpublished information collated and transformed in easy-to-use formats available for decision-making Countries produce national (or joint) reports on the distribution, conservation status, stakeholders etc. of all key sites of Sociable Lapwing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ results of inventory available for decision-makers ✓ all key sites known and monitored
Targeted studies on habitat use and restoration possibilities	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of overall population habitat preferences undettaken Analysis of distribution of suitable versus occupied habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ habitat requirements of the species reassessed in relation to recent decline
Adequate enforcement of conservation legislation	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> national and regional authorities ensure / involved in enforcement of legislation significant penalties introduced for illegal taking on birds/eggs/nestlings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ high penalties in place in both countries
Supplementary studies of population parameters	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A body in one of the two breeding countries to take responsibility for the Sociable Lapwing Working Group for conserted actions on population modelling Key experts to join efforts to provide species population model (and to assess gaps in knowledge) To start ringing and colour-marking project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Population modelling tried and results available ✓ Knowledge about site fidelity mate faithfulness and other population parameters is obtained
Facilitate increase in breeding performance of Sociable Lapwings	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure adequate protection of all breeding colonies Develop and implement system to monitor annual breeding success Control of predator numbers around breeding colonies Applied studies on practical effect of specific actions to protect colonies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Data of annual breeding success obtained and made available widely ✓ All known breeding colonies receive adequate protection
Good quality of habitats	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain or enhance the current status of habitats Encourage a protective status for all natural and semi-natural sites of importance for the Sociable Lapwing. Develop a proper management system for protected sites, if needed involving management plans. Search for possibilities for the maintenance and recovery of habitats suitable for Sociable Lapwing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inventory of key sites and determination of habitat threats. ✓ Actions for improvement of habitats ✓ Inventory of sites where natural habitats should be restored. ✓ Listing of threatened sites

Development, endorsement and implementation of National Action Plans	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Action Plans in place in both countries, published, and endorsed and implemented at all levels ▪ National legislation amended and enforced as provided in the International and National Action Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National Action Plans available ✓ All national bodies committed to implementation
Public awareness and involvement of local stakeholders	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness materials to be produced and widely distributed ▪ Local stakeholders involved in practical on-ground conservation of breeding colonies ▪ Could this species be flagship for Russia-Kazakhstan environmental co-operation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Effective public awareness materials produced and distributed

Migration areas (all range states of the species, including countries of breeding and wintering)

Internat. Objective	Priority	National management options / actions	Measurable objective
Increase knowledge on numerical distribution	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated international actions undertaken to assess numbers and distribution of Sociable Lapwing throughout entire migration area • The value of different migration corridors / flyways assessed on the basis of numerical distribution data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Information (database or maps or reports) on numerical distribution of Sociable Lapwings on spring and autumn migration available for decision-making
Inventory of key sites in the whole species range	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All countries involved in co-ordinated international surveys of key areas used by Sociable Lapwings as stopovers • Value and protection status of these areas assessed • Adequate protection of key revealed sites guaranteed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All key sites of stopovers during migration known and ✓ Measures undertaken for their adequate protection
Targeted studies on habitat use	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All surveys of the species to include assessments of habitat requirements as integral component • Assessments of the status and extent of occupied versus apparently suitable habitats undertaken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Information on habitat requirements / habitat-related limiting factors available for decision-makers
Adequate enforcement of conservation legislation	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All countries to ensure that species is strictly protected, and • That this legal protection is adequately enforced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sociable Lapwing legally protected by all Range States
Supplementary studies of population parameters	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for mortality / number decline on migration assessed and made available to wider audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ New data obtained and made available
Good quality of habitats	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All range states undertake actions to ensure that the state of habitats occupied by migratory Sociable Lapwings does not deteriorate • Habitat management measures undertaken where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extent and quality of habitat ensure stable or increasing numbers of Sociable Lapwings on migration stopovers
Development, endorsement and implementation of National Action Plans	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Range States to produce National Action Plans for conservation of migratory Sociable Lapwings and its' habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National Action Plans in place and implementation on-going

Public awareness and involvement of local stakeholders	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public awareness materials produced for different levels of the society (decision-makers, local public in important sites, national governments and NGOs etc.) All range states ensure that no deliberate or accidental harm to birds on stopovers is caused by local public / stakeholders 	✓ Effective public awareness materials produced and distributed; species known & taken care for by wider public
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Wintering areas (Erithrea, India, Iraq, Israel, Oman, Pakistan).

Currently probably Israel and India are the two most important countries of species wintering, although even from these information is extremely scarce and proved dramatic number declines. Actions and probably their subdivision per country have to be amended and defined more precisely during the workshops.

Internat. Objective	Priority	National management options / actions	Measurable objective
Increase knowledge on numerical distribution	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated international actions undertaken to assess numbers and distribution of Sociable Lapwing throughout entire wintering range The current value of different wintering grounds assessed on the basis of numerical distribution data 	✓ Information (database or maps or reports) on numerical distribution of Sociable Lapwings/Plovers in winter available for decision-making
Inventory of key sites in the whole winter range of the species	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All countries involved in co-ordinated international surveys of key areas used by Sociable Lapwings/ Plovers as wintering sites Value and protection status of these areas assessed Adequate protection of key revealed sites guaranteed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All key wintering sites known and ✓ Measures undertaken for their adequate protection
Targeted studies on habitat use and restoration possibilities	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All surveys of the species in wintering grounds to include assessments of habitat requirements as integral component Assessments of the status and extent of occupied versus apparently suitable habitats undertaken 	✓ Information on habitat requirements / habitat-related limiting factors available for decision-makers
Adequate enforcement of conservation legislation	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All countries to ensure that species is strictly protected, and That this legal protection is adequately enforced 	✓ Sociable Lapwing legally protected by all Range States
Supplementary studies of population parameters	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons for mortality / number at wintering grounds assessed and made available to wider audience 	✓ Knowledge about limiting factors is gained
Good quality of habitats	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All range states undertake actions to ensure that the state of habitats occupied by wintering Sociable Lapwings/Plovers does not deteriorate Habitat management measures undertaken where appropriate 	✓ Extent and quality of habitat ensure stable or increasing numbers of Sociable Lapwings/Plovers on wintering
Development, endorsement and implementation of National Action Plans	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Range States to produce National Action Plans for conservation of wintering Sociable Lapwings/Plovers and its' habitats 	✓ National Action Plans in place and implementation on-going
Public awareness and involvement of local stakeholders	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public awareness materials produced for different levels of the society (decision-makers, local public in important sites, national governments and NGOs etc.) All range states ensure that no deliberate or accidental harm to birds on wintering grounds is caused by local public / stakeholders 	✓ Effective public awareness materials produced and distributed; species known & taken care for by wider public in wintering areas

7 Implementation

General preconditions

For the Action Plan to be successfully implemented, agreement on information exchange, communication and monitoring, clarity on necessary financial resources and a realistic time-schedule are a prerequisite. It is most important that individual countries will only consider measures that might affect the population after a consultation process with the other involved countries has taken place. The [UNEP/ AEWA Secretariat and the Technical Committee of the AEWA](#) will play a mediating role.

A special working group under the Technical Committee should be established to co-ordinate the implementation of the Sociable Lapwing Action Plan. In this working group all Sociable Lapwing Range States and interests groups should be represented. The Range States have a responsibility in monitoring national achievements, and communicating these to [UNEP/ AEWA Secretariat with the request to disseminate this to](#) the AEWA Sociable Lapwing working group and other Range States. The population model will be a very important instrument in relation to this monitoring. This chapter will describe these essential preconditions for the implementation of the international Action Plan.

Population model

A population model that shall be based on the current situation of the population and include actual data and parameters: survival estimates for different ages (at least on the basis of similar lapwing species), as well as more general survival estimates derived from population censuses and productivity assessments. This model has to be completed as soon as it can be done. The population model will be analysed / tested by the Sociable Lapwing working group under the Technical Committee. The model will be used in preparation of a newer versions of the International Action Plan, and will serve as the basis for further understanding of species population decline and recovery possibilities.

Monitoring

The success of this Action Plan stands or falls with the commitment of countries to monitor the population and habitats, as well as effects of management measures on the species. Only if countries demonstrate this commitment, can proper management decisions be made. All countries are requested to continue and/or initiate a regular population census and monitoring of the population (including productivity/ age ratio censuses) and their habitats, with special attention to monitoring of known regular breeding, stopover and wintering sites.. Collected data will be assembled within the BirdLife International World Bird Database and/or Wetlands International IWC (International Waterbird Census framework). The Sociable Lapwing working group will be vital in organising this monitoring process.

Organisation

In the organisation structure of the AEWA, the Agreement Secretariat plays a key role. The Agreement Secretariat co-ordinates flows of scientific information and technical advice. It also calls for meetings of the AEWA parties. The Technical Committee falls under the Agreement Secretariat. Article VII, paragraph 5 of the AEWA gives the Technical Committee the possibility to install working groups for special purposes. This article can be used for the establishment of a Sociable Lapwing working group.

Sociable Lapwing working group

A special Sociable Lapwing working group under the Technical Committee of the AEWA will be established for implementation of this Action Plan.

The working group shall, under supervision of the Technical Committee and taking into account the role of the Agreement Secretariat, be mandated to undertake the following activities:

- Co-ordinate and facilitate information exchange between Range States (and between the AEWA and the Range States).
- Collect country data and draft annual reports on the implementation of the Action Plan.
- Assist in and co-ordinate the process of National Action Plan preparation.
- Prepare and submit a review of the Action Plan to the triennial Range States' meeting and to the AEWA.
- Monitor implementation of the Action Plan.
- Organise intermediate meetings with groups of Range States (training, emergency measures, etc.)

The working group will call for an emergency meeting with the Range States when;

- Total population size has declined by more than one third in any period of four or fewer than four consecutive years; or
- Major changes in relevant habitats, or sudden catastrophes occur within the range of the Sociable Lapwing liable to affect the population further; or

An estimated 12,000 US Dollars minimum is needed annually for the Sociable Lapwing working group to perform its tasks (1 principal coordinator part-time, plus communication and printing costs, and basic inventory logistics).

The Sociable Lapwing working group should consist of a team of several technical advisors. To ensure effective communication between the Technical Committee and the working group, at least one member of the Technical Committee should also participate in the working group.

Detailed Terms of Reference based on the above description of activities will be prepared by the Technical Committee, and endorsed by the Range States before the Sociable Lapwing working group will start its work.

I cannot agree with this. The AEWA Secretariat should always coordinate dissemination of the information to avoid that the group act as a stand-alone working group. However in case we discover that this would cause confusion (what I don't expect) then we could also pragmatically find a solution.

~~The additional value of the Sociable Lapwing Working Group is related to the fact that both breeding range states are not yet the parties to AEWA, which might cause some misunderstandings if communication and co-ordination of activities goes directly from the AEWA Secretariat. For pure diplomacy acting through Sociable Lapwing Working Group is supposed more appropriate.~~

Country actions

In all communication between the Range States (Contracting and Non-contracting Parties to AEWA-Parties), the Agreement Secretariat plays a co-ordinating role. To keep communication lines clear, countries should therefore provide information to the Agreement Secretariat. This is intended to ensure that all parties will get all relevant information. In order to implement the Action Plan, the Range State Countries should commit themselves to at least to the following points:

- Prepare, in co-operation with the working group, and based on chapter 5 and 6 of this International Action Plan a National Action Plan in one year's time.
- Implement this National Action Plan.

- Through the Agreement Secretariat, the working group should be informed about relevant issues in the country.
- Prepare an annual progress report.
- Endorse the Terms of Reference of the working group.
- Endorse this Action Plan.
- Pinpoint focal points, responsible for the communication with the working group and relevant stakeholders in the country.
- Prepare a review of the National Action Plans every three to five years.
- Maintain and further develop adequately funded monitoring programmes to deliver key data.

Time frame for monitoring, evaluation and communication

Time path ⇒1 ^e	1 ^e year ↓	2 ^e year ↓	3 ^e year ↓	4 ^e year ↓
<i>Actions</i>	AEWA Technical Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Terms of Reference for working group • Prepare Action Plan 	Working group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist and co-ordinate National Action Plans • Monitor implementation of the (national and international) Action Plans and prepare annual progress report • Facilitate information exchange • Organise meetings/training 	Working group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor implementation of the (national and international) Action Plans and prepare annual progress report • Facilitate information exchange • Organise meetings/training 	Working group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare triennial Range States meeting • Prepare Action Plan review • Monitor implementation of the (national and international) Action Plan and prepare annual progress report • Facilitate information exchange • Organise meetings/training
	Range States: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse Action Plan • Endorse ToR [←- ÷-òî ýòî? working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan • National Action Plan • Prepare annual progress report • Pinpoint national focal points • Exchange information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Action Plan • Prepare annual progress report • Exchange information 	Range States: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement National Action Plan • Prepare annual progress report • Exchange information
	⇓	⇓	⇓	⇓

<p><i>Products</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed Action Plan • Endorsed working group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Action Plans • Annual progress report Range States • Annual progress report international Action Plan • National Focal Points • Meetings/training • Information exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual progress report Range States • Annual progress report international Action Plan • Meetings/training • Information exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triennial Range States' meeting • Reviewed Action Plan • Three-year report Range States • Three year report internat. Action Plan • Annual progress report Range States • Annual progress report international Action Plan • Information exchange
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Terminology

In this Action Plan, the following definitions have been used:

Equilibrium population level = stable level of animal population size, in which birth rate and death rate are equal.

Habitat = environment meeting the conditions required by a particular species.

Natural Habitat = environment of a particular species, which has not been changed by human interference in the recent history; i.e. virgin steppes and semi-deserts

Semi natural habitat = environment of a particular species, which has been moderately modified by humans; i.c steppes used for grazing etc.

Man-made habitat = man-made environment of a particular species; i.c. farmland.

Range States = (independent) countries within the range in which a particular animal species occurs

Stopover sites (areas) = areas where migratory bird populations stay for a prolonged period of at least several days during the non-breeding part of the year, where the birds can both forage and rest. Usually this term is only applied to so-called staging grounds during autumn and spring migration.

Wintering grounds = staging grounds during the winter.

Key sites = areas which are essential for the survival of a significant part of the population (conform Ramsar criteria) at any stage of its annual cycle; i.c. for this migratory bird species: breeding grounds, staging areas and wintering sites.

Terminology to be ammended during the Workshop and final updating of the draft Action Plan.

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Workshop

In February 2001 a workshop, chaired by Dr. Pavel Tomkovich is to be convened in Moscow. During the workshop this draft of the International Action Plan for the Sociable Lapwing *Chettusia gregaria* will be discussed and finalized.

**Appendix I: Overview of key sites
Per Country.**

Site	Habitat-type	Co-ordinates	Area (ha) ¹	(Inter)national designation (since what year) ²	Peak numbers	Peak month (number of months in use) ³	Ownership	Management responsibility

For Russia we will try to use IBA datasheet forms we have in the RBCU office, but what to do with Kazakhstan even??? Any idea if this is possible for migration and wintering areas / countries???