



6th MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
08 - 11 May 2005, Flic en Flac, Mauritius

**PROJECT PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION WITH
THE REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**

INTRODUCTION

In November 2004 the 25th Anniversary of the European Bird Directive was celebrated during a Conference held in Bergen op Zoom, The Netherlands. This Conference adopted the Conclusions from Bergen op Zoom regarding reinforcing our commitment to safeguarding Europe's Wild Birds and their Habitats.

From the discussions during the above-mentioned celebrations it became clear that, through the implementation of the Bird Directive, important results have been achieved with respect to safeguarding Europe's wild birds and their habitats over the past 25 years.

Notwithstanding significant progress in implementation, the latest scientific evidence confirms that many common bird populations continue to decline, especially those dependent on rural landscapes as well as long-distance migrants, and that the overall aim of the Directive has therefore still not been fully realised.

To safeguard Europe's wild birds and their habitats, the Conference agreed upon ten priority objectives. Most of these objectives focus on the implementation of certain activities within the EU. Three objectives deal with activities at Pan-European or Global level which are of high relevance to AEWA. The following activities are worth mention:

- Action 3.1¹: Update and prepare new international action plans for globally threatened and other highly endangered species listed in Annex 1, in partnership with relevant international conventions and within a perspective of the distribution area of the species/ populations (Member States, Commission and stakeholders)
- Action 3.2: Put in place national and EU measures to implement priority recommendations of international plans, with adequate financing (Member States, Commission and stakeholders)
- Action 3.3: Ensure adequate monitoring and a review system, where feasible in harmony with relevant international conventions and agreements, to enable the efficacy of the plans to be evaluated and improved as necessary at regular intervals. (Member States, Commission and stakeholders)
- Action 7.1: To effectively deliver research to support implementation of the Bird Directive (Article 10, Annex V), identify knowledge gaps and implement research on key priority issues for bird conservation, such as the effective management of sites and the coherence and resilience of the SPA network, so as to ensure the survival and reproduction of relevant species, implementation of the protection regime, diagnosis of the cause of bird population declines, especially in long-distance migrants including those outside the EU, predictive modelling on impacts on bird populations, especially in relation to climate change, and necessary work to underpin the effective delivery of the "Guidance document on hunting" (European Commission, Member States, ORNIS Committee)

¹ Action 3.1. means first action foreseen under objective 3.

- Action 9.3: Allocate by 2006 adequate financial resources to national, European and international bird conservation research and to the dissemination of its results including sufficient funding under the Community FP7 (European Commission, Member States)
- Action 10.1: Adopt the recent proposal from the Commission to ratify the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement – AEWA (Council of Ministers), and support its implementation (Member States, European Commission).
- Action 10.2: Promote and support coordinated action to strengthen flyway management and long-term monitoring of waterbirds and other long-distance migratory bird species outside the EU, notably in Africa, the Middle East and European non-EU states (Member States, European Commission)
- Action 10.4: Cooperate with the relevant international conventions, such as the Convention on wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitats, the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals and its suite of agreements (e.g. AEWA), the Convention on European Wildlife and natural habitats and the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to a common framework for implementation of monitoring and research activities within and outside the EU which are in line with the provisions of the Bird Directive (European Commission, Member States, international secretariats).

PROPOSAL FROM THE WORKING GROUP

Based on the activities listed above, the working group studied the International Implementation Priorities AEWA 2003-2007 and identified a number of projects that might be of interest for the European Commission to provide support to. It has been taken in to account is that the EU might not be very interested in small projects but would prefer to support larger scale projects. Taking this into account the following projects are identified:

- **Drafting of International Single Species Action Plans** which are of EU concern e.g. *Gavia Immer*, *Gavia Adamsii*; *Podiceps auritus auritus* (larged-billed); *Pelecanus onocrotatus*; *Pelecanus crispus*; *Ciconia nigra*; *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia*; *Branta bernicla hrota*; *Fulica cristata*; *Calidris alpine schinzii*; *Sterna Caspia* and *Sterna dougallii dougallii* (Action 3.1);
- **Implementation of existing International Species Action Plans** e.g. *Crex crex*, *White-headed Duck*, *Ferruginous Duck*, *Gallinago meda* and *Geronticus eremite* (Action 3.2);
- **Creating an inter-active tool that presents information of important sites for migratory waterbirds** (Action 10.2);
- **Identify priority areas for better protection** (Action 7.1)
- **Identification of all sites of international importance for AEWA Species, particularly in the Middle East and Africa** (Action 3.2);
- **Evaluation of waterbird harvests in the Agreement Area** (Action 7.1);
- **Improving survey and monitoring capacity for migratory waterbirds with a focus on Africa** (Action 3.3);
- **International Waterbird Census-gap filling survey** (Action 7.1);
- **Publication of Flyway Atlases for Herons, Storks and Ibises** (Action 10.1);
- **Coordination of ringing schemes in Africa** (Action 3.3);
- **Report on Status and Trends for MOP4** (Action 3.3);
- **Compiling Flyway information (in digital format) for use in conjunction with existing waterbird count data and site information** (Action 10.1);

ACTION REQUESTED FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The TC is requested to review and, after the necessary amendments have been made, to adopt the list of potential projects to be submitted by the Secretariat to the EU with the request