



11th MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
27 - 30 August 2012, Accra, Ghana

AEWA International Species Working Groups

Terms of Reference¹

Goals [*usually as per the SSAP, see four example bullet points*]

- To restore the species populations to a favourable conservation status.
- To move the species population(s) from Column A to Column B or C of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan.
- To remove the species from the IUCN Red List of threatened animals.
- In the short-term, to maintain the current population size and distribution of the species throughout its range, and in the medium to long term to promote increase in population size and range.

Role

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

- 1) coordinate and catalyse the implementation of the International Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) approved by the AEWA Meeting of the Parties;
- 2) stimulate and support Range States in the implementation of the SSAP; and
- 3) monitor and report on the implementation and the effectiveness of the SSAP.

Remit

The AEWA Species 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, including with other specialists and interested parties;
- 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 SSAP and take appropriate action according to the findings of this monitoring;
- regularly report on the implementation of the SSAP to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties through the National Focal Points; and
- update the international SSAP in [*year when the SSAP is due for revision*] 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 forming the working group: [*list of the core Range States required by the SSAP to take specific action*]

¹ As approved by the 9th Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee, 20-23 April 2009, Zagreb, Croatia

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 full-time or part-time Coordinator post will be based in an institution or an organisation, ideally from one of the major Range States. 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 UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

The designated representatives of national state authorities will act as National Focal Points for the SSAP 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 Species Working Group's website and list server.

Reporting

A thorough report on the implementation of the SSAP 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 UNEP/AEWA Secretariat cannot commit regular financial support and may only provide such if possible. Funding for SSAP activities of the Species Working Group or its members is to be sought from various sources.