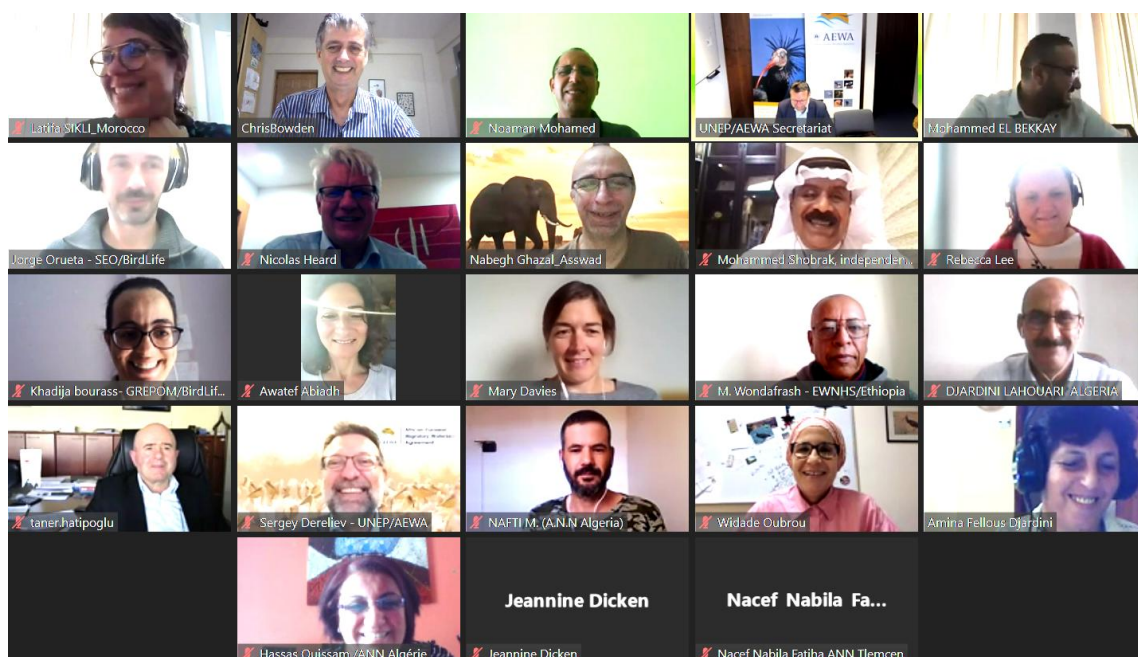


REPORT OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE AEWA NORTHERN BALD IBIS INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP

25–26 October 2022 – Virtual Meeting



The 3rd Meeting of the AEWA Northern Bald Ibis International Working Group was hosted online by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and co-organised by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) on behalf of BirdLife International.

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1. Overview & Acknowledgements

Following the [inaugural meeting](#) of the International Working Group (IWG) for Northern Bald Ibis in Jazan, Saudi Arabia, November 2012, and the [second IWG meeting](#) in Agadir, Morocco, September 2017, this was the third IWG meeting, which aimed to review the progress since the second meeting and update the implementation plan for the revised International Single Species Action Plan for the species that was adopted by AEWA MOP6 in November 2015.

This third IWG meeting revised the three-year implementation plans with reference to the ISSAP, and this plan is presented in this report in Appendix 3 as key outputs. The progress will be reviewed at the next meeting which is likely to be in 2024.

The meeting was chaired by Morocco and hosted online by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat using the Zoom platform. The meeting was co-organised by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

2. Summary of Decisions and Action Points Agreed by the Meeting

Agenda item	Decision	Action/Remarks
Adoption of the agenda	Agenda adopted without changes as proposed.	
Confirmation of observers	All present observers accepted.	
Country reports (MOR, ALG, TUR, SYR, KSA, ETH)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morocco will finalise latest population numbers, including breeding pairs and share information. • Christiane Böhm will share information on tagging issues. • Consider adding immediate corpse removal to Avian Influenza emergency response protocols.
Presentation of updated actions for Western population		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP/AEWA Secretariat requested formal submission of information about reintroduction plans in Morocco in accordance with the provisions of AEWA. • Algeria requested advice from Mohammed Shobrak (Saudi Arabia) with regard to funding long-term reintroduction programmes.
Presentation of updated actions for Eastern population		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan identified as a new range state required in the implementation of the plan. Communication with Jordanian authorities required.
For new (and existing) actions, each country to highlight sources of support and potential challenges for implementation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satellite tagging identified as an area that would benefit from increased collaboration on funding and data sharing.

Agenda item	Decision	Action/Remarks
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jorge Orueta (SEO/BirdLife Spain) to notify local office in the Canaries to look out for possible birds reaching the archipelago. • Further information requested from Algerian government on the commitment or prospects of long-term funding for a reintroduction programme in Algeria. • Morocco to communicate information on the revision and status of the national action plan (PANIC).
Opportunities or needs for cross-cutting work or experience?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All partners encouraged to contact the coordination unit (Chris Bowden, Jorge Orueta and Nabegh Ghazal Asswad) for support with applications for funders
How can the IWG be more helpful to individual range states?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Bowden/Jorge Orueta to provide key references relevant for NBI biology and conservation for the database being put together in Algeria as part of the translocation feasibility study. • A Workspace, which is part of the AEWA NBI IWG website, is available to the group for increased communication and collaboration. Updates for links will be circulated by AEWA within IWG once available. • Suggestion of more frequent contact including through virtual meetings.
Process for considering the need of updating the NBI ISSAP for 2025	<p>An assessment process was agreed, and it will deliver recommendations on possible update or revision of the ISSAP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordination Unit & Secretariat review the goal, purpose and objectives of the ISSAP vis-à-vis current (Nov 2022 – April 2023) 2. Produce a short document, containing recommendations, for review by the Range States (May 2023) 3. Range States provide feedback and agree on the recommendations (June 2023) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Bowden and Sergey Dereliev to communicate on this in coming months with request for information for the assessment from the Range States.
Dates and venue of the next meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding required for a face-to-face meeting. If ISSAP revision required, such a meeting will be needed before October 2024 at the latest. If not required, could be later in 2025/6. In addition, could convene annual virtual meetings.
Election of new Chair	Saudi Arabia confirmed and welcomed as new Chair.	

Agenda item	Decision	Action/Remarks
Next steps		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consolidated draft revised implementation plan for next three years will be finalised and produced by coordinating unit. Draft to be produced in next few weeks for review and comments from Range States, and finalised version by end of year.• Draft meeting report to be produced by the coordinating unit in the next weeks and circulated for review and approval.• Agreed all PowerPoints to be shared amongst participants.

3. Notes on Plenary Discussions

These notes clarify and supplement the decisions and actions (above) and the presentations which are not summarised here.

Day 1 - Tuesday 25 October 2022

3.1. Welcome and Introduction

Chair Zouhair Amhaouch (Morocco) opened the meeting.

The Chair gave thanks to all members of the working group, all the parties and experts and all who contributed to organising the meeting, including the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

The Chair handed over to Sergey Dereliev. Mr Dereliev welcomed everyone, thanked all participants for attending, and said the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat hopes it will be possible for the next meeting to be face-to-face. He described the main purpose of the meeting: to update our knowledge about where we stand with Northern Bald Ibis (NBI) conservation and plan what we will do over the next three years.

Mr Dereliev then handed over to Chris Bowden who also welcomed all participants and thanked the Chair.

3.2. Adoption of the agenda

Chair handed over to Sergey Dereliev to lead this session. Summary of points:

- The agenda was reviewed with all participants, including the need to discuss the election of a new Chair. Morocco has chaired the group since 2017.
- No objections or additions, agenda adopted without changes as proposed.

3.3. Introduction of attendees

- Each participant introduced him/her/themselves briefly.

3.4. Confirmation of observers

- The majority of participants are from national delegations.
- The observers were identified: Christiane Böhm (Alpenzoo Innsbruck-Tirol, Austria), Awatef Abiadh (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, CEPF), Nicholas Heard (Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund) and Ahmet Kaya (Doğa Derneği, Turkey).
- Others present are representatives of the coordinating unit and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat: Chris Bowden (RSPB), Jorge Orueta (SEO/BirdLife Spain), Nabegh Ghazal Asswad (IFAW), Mary Davies (RSPB), Rebecca Lee (RSPB), Sergey Dereliev (UNEP/AEWA Secretariat), .
- Observers registered for the meeting were accepted by the IWG.

3.5. Presentation: Report of the Coordinator with NBI species status, general overview

Chris Bowden (RSPB)

Points in addition to or reinforcing presentation:

- Northern Bald Ibis has a rich history. The western population is partially migratory, the eastern is fully migratory, and there are genetic differences between the two populations.
- Full account of the status of the species is [available in a 2020 paper](#) in Oryx (many of the 13 authors are IWG members): The northern bald ibis *Geronticus eremita*: history, current status and future perspectives.
- Data of 2,000 captive birds in stud books (8,000 including dead birds): 1,400 alive in zoos, 500 in wild parks and private institutions, 100 members of breeding programmes – as updated by Christiane Böhm.
- The importance of establishing and reinforcing warden networks with government support was reiterated and described as a major advance in Morocco since the previous meeting.
- The IUCN Red List status has changed from Critically Endangered to Endangered due to the steadily increasing population in Morocco.
- The International Advisory Group on the Northern Bald Ibis (IAGNBI) – created in 1999 in Morocco, the group still exists but is less active, the centre of activity has shifted to this working group. Christiane Böhm is the chair of IAGNBI.
- The first ISSAP was produced with IAGNBI and approved in 2005; in 2012, at this working group's inaugural meeting the plan was revised and subsequently the revised version was approved in 2015; in 2017, at the second meeting of this working group, a shorter-term implementation plan was produced based on the revised ISSAP.
- A key question for this meeting – will newly emerging issues in the revision of the implementation plan justify the production of a revised ISSAP or simply an update?

3.6. Country reports (points in addition to or reinforcing presentations)

3.6.1 Morocco – Widade Oubrou

- There are still two main sites for breeding – Tamri and Souss-Massa National Park (SMNP) – but other sites in outlying areas are also important (e.g., for roosting and breeding).
- There has been an increase in breeding pairs that laid eggs from 65 in 1994 to 175 in 2022. This represents a further major increase and includes a new sub-colony within the SMNP.
- Climate change should be considered a long-term threat.
- The existing conservation programme was described, including surveillance and monitoring, detection of disturbance issues, ensuring water supply, satellite tracking, law enforcement (disturbance), implementation of sustainable development initiatives, awareness work and communication activities.
- Progress on the implementation of the action plan was described.
- Working in partnership (Government and NGOs including GREPOM) is important for the conservation of the species and monitoring and surveillance needs to continue.
- Establishing new colonies is being assessed and considered.

Q – Chris Bowden: Are the 175 breeding pairs that made a nest or laid eggs? A – Pairs that laid eggs and some that showed breeding behaviour at nests. Numbers will be finalised and shared. (Widade Oubrou clarified later that there were 175 pairs with eggs/chicks).

Q – Sergey Dereliev: It would be useful to have more information on the latest population size including post- and pre-breeding numbers. The satellite tagging is a great achievement - what are the preliminary results regarding dispersion? Is it possible for the area of Tamri to be formally more strongly protected? On the topic of reintroduction in the Middle Atlas – look forward to more information and discussion in the workshop. This would be a new activity, not currently part of the ISSAP. A – Population size: approximately 400 birds during the breeding season, over 700 post-breeding. Tagging has shown some birds have remained in SMNP, some have moved between the sites, but further analysis of the tagging results is needed. Tamri is now included as part of a Ramsar site.

Comment: Christiane Böhm – On tagging, we have some experience from reintroduction projects where they caused issues (e.g., eye injuries). She will share information. A – has been previously raised and aware of the issue.

Comment: Mohammed El Bekkay – catching and tagging more birds remains important to understand range and dispersion. Tamri is likely to become a National Reserve in addition to being part of the much larger Ramsar site. Continued conservation is needed. Important to highlight the work of the wardens who have been in place for many years – supported by National Agency of Water and Forest.

Comment: Amina Fellous – it would be useful if the results of tagging could be shared with Algeria, to follow the movements of birds in the region so could quickly mobilise/alert observers if a bird visited Algeria (or indeed Middle Atlas).

Q: Mohammed Shobrak – are there other threats? Electrocutation? Shooting? A – Electrocutation incident years ago but not recently despite close monitoring. Shooting has not been reported apart from once over 20 years ago.

Q: Chris Bowden – is there an update on the desalination plant in SMNP? A – It has been built and breeding and roosting sites nearby are still occupied. There was consultation on making lines underground. Impact study says all lines should be underground. Outside the NP lines (in the immediate area) have been equipped with visibility markers marked. No issues reported.

Comment: Sergey Dereliev – Avian influenza (AI) could be a significant issue. In a review of the impact of AI on Sandwich Terns, an action was identified to reduce risk – immediate removal of corpses from colonies. Consideration should be given to including this in AI emergency response protocols. Relevant to any species.

Comment: Noaman Mohamed – Reintroduction work in the Middle Atlas of Morocco is in line with the ISSAP.

3.6.2 Algeria – Amina Fellous

- Highly protected status, known as sacred bird.
- Updated distribution map – most recent breeding in 1980s?
- Recent sightings (over the past 30 years) are being compiled and reviewed. These may be published once completed.

- New project started in December 2021. Started NBI database and bibliography references. Field trip taken place to old and potential new NBI sites – for releases. New committee NBI-ANN.
- 1st National NBI meeting in October 22 – DGF Alger. Presentation of key activities and current status of NBI. More than 30 participants. Explained and discussed prospective area.
- Objectives: first evaluation of up to 10 release sites – site suitability assessments to be reviewed involving RSPB-IWG experts. Implementation will follow feasibility. Also need to work of avicultural needs – experience from other projects, aviary design etc.
- Next steps – stakeholder meeting, selection of potential releases sites, gathering data on sites, establish feasibility study, prepare NBI National Action Plan.

Q: Noaman Mohamed – Recent records important. How are these being interrogated? A: Sporadic records. No tags or rings on these birds. In contact with European partners but no information.

Q: Zouhair Amhaouch – When were birds seen? Where? Birds disperse from Morocco, many birds lost? A: Preparing a document with all of the information. Most was a group of five.

3.6.3 Türkiye – Taner Hatipoglu

- Carrying capacity of Birecik station – max 300 birds. Has been exceeded. Releases in 2021 (but note these were only ringed, and not tagged with satellite transmitters) – 15 juveniles. 13 have disappeared. 2 have been seen near Israel border with Egypt. No birds returned as for earlier trials.
- Major clearance of trees and other site improvements at the breeding station.
- Some electric wires around Birecik now covered with shields.
- NBI National Action Plan completed in the end of 2019.
- Publication on genetics out soon.
- Establishing captive populations in zoos – three zoos in Türkiye. But no successful captive breeding recently.
- Threats – human population pressure – development. Agricultural change and development – use of new pesticides and less natural food available. More dependence on feeding station.
- Action plan – prevention of disease – no progress in creating a new semi captive population, implementation of management plan for Birecik, minimising power line issues, maintenance of semi wild population, establishment of wild migratory population starts 2021, no progress with establishing wild population away from Birecik – feasibility work needed.

Q: Chris Bowden – Big change around the breeding centre. Breeding pairs – are more breeding outside the centre or mainly within? Interested to know which zoos now hold NBI in Türkiye?

A: Breeding pairs: mostly breed within the centre compound in nest-boxes, with only two pairs in adjacent cliffs outside. Private zoo nr Istanbul is the main zoo population.

Q: Mohammed Shobrak – 13 birds released disappeared. Did they migrate? Satellite tagging potential – will this be included? Is there any possibility to send birds to other zoos outside Turkey? A: Possible that migration is still happening (as shown with two seen in Israel)? Tagging needed for future releases but challenges in funding for tags. (Recently released birds just ringed). Possible to establish other captive breeding elsewhere in Türkiye to ensure sustainability, but also need to continue looking for establishing a new breeding station set up for releases.

Comment: Christiane Böhm – Importance to ensure good sex ratio and age structure for birds sent to other establishments – success dependant on that. Bigger colonies probably needed. Successful breeding pairs will continue to be successful if moved.

Q: Nabegh Ghazal Asswad – Poisoning. Any evidence of pesticide poisoning? A: Issue identified last year. Working with locals – when pesticides are being used increase feeding at station. But this increases dependence on breeding station and food provisioning.

Q: Aghnaj Ali – Carrying capacity. How is this limited? Number of nest sites/ breeding boxes available? Is it affecting behaviour of birds? A: No more room for nest boxes on the cliff. Some congestion and fighting seen. Now two winter-aviary sites but not room for more. No more space to build there. Limited by both winter holding capacity and by breeding accommodation.

Q: Mohammed Shobrak – Idea to release south of Saudi Arabia. Theoretical plan for release in future? But could this approach be used to improve prospects during migration? A: Although this is a possible future approach, it needs international collaboration and building partnerships with other countries to test it. And not a proven method, indeed advice from those involved in Europe was this is unlikely to work - but not directly tested by European release trials.

Comment: Chris Bowden – Previously releases from Birecik have been trialled and some have been tagged. Known major risk of getting past the hunting danger zone in Syria and northern Saudi Arabia. Routes are learned so would they learn to come back? More information needed via tagging as a next step.

Comment: Christiane Böhm – Transporting further south means they won't learn this. Doesn't seem to need to be led by adult birds. Juveniles would be better to release. But still so much unknown.

3.6.4 Syria – Nabegh Ghazal Asswad

Security issues in working in the area. Last time birds seen in 2015. Situation deteriorated since then. Ministry and NGOs working closely together and will monitor when possible. Even locals have deserted the area due to security issues. Hopefully soon this will improve. Electrocutation still a threat known from other parts of Syria. Some work on powerlines so some not dangerous anymore, but overall, still an issue. Retrofitting needed. Issue of hunting serious – known black spot. Some hope to improve laws and enforcement – consultation with CMS on draft laws. Approved by Ministry and will be sent to parliament. Stricter measures for hunting – more species protected.

Q: Mohammed Shobrak – Any news on captive bred birds? A: Birds were released and disappeared – likely shot or electrocuted. Previous staff not returned to area.

3.6.5 Saudi Arabia – Mohammed Shobrak

- Most information comes from satellite tracking and then trying to locate those birds
- Illegal hunting and electrocution are big problems in Saudi Arabia
- One NBI hunted in northern SA
- New regulation on hunting – started in 2021 – species selected based on four pillars: Islamic law, scientific studies showing decline/endangered status/endemic/restricted geographical range, international regulations, existing ban by Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (e.g. related to AI outbreaks)
- Autumn season identified as having the highest hunting pressure

- Criteria developed to determine quota per species per season – 1% of global population divided by range states [more complicated than this]
- Electrocutation prevention work done as part of a EU LIFE project on Egyptian Vulture
- Most wetland species protected, 20km area of coast protected
- Planning for 30% of country to be protected

Q: Christiane Böhm – how much illegal hunting is going on? A: MS – we do not know, large country and many hunters, 15,000-20,000 hunters have applied for licence, we have a department watching social media for violations and taking people to court, but how many total not known. 2015 – more than 12.5 million birds being killed, taken very seriously, reason for law, trying to be strict. Local communities support regulation. Issue is how we develop hunting bags and make hunting sustainable. Would like one system across countries.

3.6.6 Ethiopia – Mengistu Wondafrash

- Focal point not in attendance at the moment due to technical issues.
- NBI overwinter in Ethiopia are of Eastern population origin.
- 4 individuals in 2006 – some with rings and tags.
- 2006-2014 – some intermittent records – same four individuals. 2014– three recorded. 2015 – only one bird recorded. 2016-2018 – no surveys.
- 2019 – intensive survey – no birds recorded.
- 2020-21 – planned surveys covering more areas. Not possible due to Covid-related travel restrictions, financial restrictions and security issues. No motivation to exert more effort as unlikely birds still present. One more assessment proposed for this winter but potentially not feasible. What can the way forward be? Still relevant for Ethiopia to be part of working group?

3.7 Brief overview on the status of the NBI populations and the progress of implementation of the ISSAP - Chris Bowden (RSPB)

Points in addition to or reinforcing presentation:

- Some useful recent publications – one [joint paper in Oryx](#), but also others. Many from this group but others in languages other than English. And a useful publication from Andre Schenker
- Implementation plan priority actions: Funding - EU supporting two projects 1) Improving nest sites in Morocco, 2) Justification and feasibility study on potential translocation in Algeria.
- Need to compile a comprehensive list of funding opportunities that can be explored and used by IWG members to seek funders for priority actions. These can be compiled, added and circulated in the coming months.

3.8 Workflow for updating the implementation plan in working groups

- Split into two groups - Western and Eastern populations. Individuals pre-assigned to groups. Some observers may wish to choose which group. Facilitators and note takers in each group.
- Purpose: Update and revise implementation plan for 2023-2025, timebound activities, update/revise existing actions, restart paused items, think about complementary activities.

[BREAKOUT GROUPS – these sessions are not covered in this report]

Day 2 - Wednesday 26 October 2022

[BREAKOUT GROUPS - continued]

- Chair and Sergey Dereliev welcomed participants back to plenary.

3.9 Presentation of updated actions for Western population

- Chris Bowden presented results of Western population breakout working group.
- Mr Bowden and the Chair thanked Rebecca Lee for taking notes.
- Mr Bowden went through the amended implementation plan document and highlighted the most significant changes.
- It was unclear where more satellite tagging and related activities would best fit within the existing implementation plan, currently included under 2.5.1.
- Major suggested change under Result 3.7: plan for re-introduction in Morocco. Work is currently being done on assessing feasibility and a site has been identified in the Middle Atlas.

Comment: Sergey Dereliev – Response regarding possibility of funding for reintroduction in Algeria – feasibility study will include looking at resources required. Algeria will need to determine how to resource implementation. UNEP/AEWA Secretariat may be able to help to secure occasional grants, but this cannot be guaranteed. Re-introduction requires continuous and secure funding (realistically 15-30 years timelines) in order to be considered feasible. Internal funding or secure external donor is required. Ad hoc funding is not suitable.

Comment: Mohammed Shobrak – Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund may be a possibility for funding small elements of a reintroduction programme. Reintroduction is long-term programme; issues could occur after 5 or 10 years. Continuity and stability in funding is very important. The funding of long-term monitoring needs to be considered as part of a reintroduction programme.

Q: Sergey Dereliev – Response regarding Middle Atlas reintroduction in Morocco – Asked for more clarity regarding the reintroduction.

A: Chair – Middle Atlas is one of oldest breeding sites, population disappeared in the 1980s, and there is potential that can even be inside a national park, so a plausible option to manage. Reintroduction required to make the species more secure because currently only breeding in one other area.

Comment: Sergey Dereliev – this is a new stream on work not currently in the ISSAP, Morocco's national report to AEWA MOP8 did not include information on a planned reintroduction. In accordance with provisions of the Agreement, Parties are required to inform the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat of such plans. Reintroduction could complement Algeria's reintroduction and could be a useful approach. However, legal provisions and requirements need to be followed. AEWA has guidelines for reintroductions which should be followed. This new development needs to be considered with regard to the revision of the ISSAP. UNEP/AEWA Secretariat requested more information to be formally submitted, as required by the text of the Agreement.

Comment: Morocco – Feasibility study will be completed by the end of 2022. This is very important work for Morocco. Funding has been secured. Would be an important result in the new ISSAP. We will work with all relevant groups and experts, and it will be included in the next national report to AEWA MOP.

Comment: Sergey Dereliev – Reinforced the need for the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to be formally notified of the intention to consider a reintroduction programme and need to cross-reference feasibility study with AEWA guidelines. Important that we work collaboratively.

Comment: Sergey Dereliev – supported Mohammed Shobrak’s earlier intervention regarding funding.

Q: Amina Fellous – Requested further advice from Mohammed Shobrak.

A: Mohammed Shobrak – Confirmed he is happy to discuss.

3.10 Presentation of updated actions for Eastern population

- Sergey Dereliev presented results of Eastern population breakout working group.
- He was facilitator and notetaker.
- Sergey Dereliev went through the amended implementation plan document and highlighted the most significant changes.
- Jordan identified as a new range state required in the implementation of the plan. Communication with Jordanian authorities required.
- Two changes noted in Türkiye: changes in agricultural practices and urban development. Requires monitoring and new activities.
- Result 3.1 – reintroduction would be required to achieve the result. Requires discussion at the next meeting.
- Results 4.3 and 4.8 – needs more discussion between the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, Coordinating Unit and other experts.

Comment: Mohammed Shobrak – Document on mitigating powerlines will be published soon, in Arabic. Satellite tagging has been identified as an issue for both groups – perhaps a joint fundraising effort could be made.

Qs: Chris Bowden:

1 – Is it now more politically feasible for Türkiye to work with Sharjah Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife?

2 – Is the plan to release in Türkiye again next summer? What is the scale of these releases?

3 – What more is known about the possibility of establishing a semi-wild population at a second site in Türkiye?

Comment – Chris Bowden supported the idea to create a contact group for following satellite tagged juvenile birds released from Birecik and to add Jordan as a range state.

Sergey Dereliev: Response to Q3 – The activity is being maintained in the implementation plan but only in terms of identifying a site within the timeframe of Implementation Plan.

Taner Hatipoglu: Response to Q1 – Contacts have improved and are increasing. Meetings may be possible in the future. Response to Q2 – Yes, we will continue to release because we don’t have enough space in captivity. Transmitters are needed.

Chris Bowden: Comment – Transmitters are crucial for released birds – in order to learn from these exercises, and specifically to identify mortality causes.

Nabegh Ghazal Asswad: Comment – Not all transmitters will transmit in certain areas, e.g. in Syria. This needs to be considered before choosing transmitters.

Mohammed Shobrak: Comment – Believes Argos transmitters are useful in Syria, GSM are a problem.

Sergey Dereliev was thanked by the Chair.

3.11 For new (and existing) actions, each country to highlight sources of support and potential challenges for implementation

Morocco – Summary by Chair

- The National Agency for Water and Forest (ANEF) is funding many activities, including wardens.
- Activities related to sustainable development and engagement with local communities – funded by ANEF, GREPOM (Group for Research & Protection of Birds in Morocco).
- Tagging birds – high priority for Morocco – ANEF will contribute but further support welcomed.
- Reintroduction in the Middle Atlas – resource commitment for implementation covered by ANEF

Sergey Dereliev: Comment – Very encouraging to see Morocco's commitment to the conservation of the species globally. Thanked all delegates from Morocco.

Chris Bowden: Q – Which area of work would benefit the most from external support – satellite tags?

Chair: A – Support is most needed for catching and tagging birds, and monitoring birds that leave core area.

Widade Oubrou: A – It has been recognised that wardens are most important element of work. The Agency has ensured salary, but we must ensure wardens have the right materials including new technology. Ongoing need for external support for equipment.

Nabegh Ghazal Asswad: Q – Birds could go west, e.g. to the Canaries. Can we cover this?

Jorge Orueta: A – There is a local SEO/BirdLife Spain office in the Canaries that will be given instruction.

Algeria – Summary by Amina Fellous

- We have launched feasibility study with support from the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and RSPB.
- Amina Fellous provided detail about progress and process of feasibility assessment.
- Algeria needs funding for the next step of reintroduction, the implementation – need funding and advice.
- Algeria developing a national plan by 2025 with a long-term vision, including to re-connect NBI population across North Africa to Morocco. Re-establish at ancient sites.
- Support needed to train husbandry managers and veterinarians.
- Mrs. Fellous described awareness raising activities.

Chris Bowden: Q – is there any commitment from government to fund reintroduction?

Amina Fellous: A – Input required here from Nadjiba Bendjedda who could not attend due to illness.

Turkey – Summary by Taner Hatipoglu

- Turkey prepared to implement action plan activities.
- Support needed for satellite tagging (financial and technical advice).

Chris Bowden: Q – Is there a role for NGOs to input or is government primary player for implementation?

Taner Hatipoglu: A – Government is main player but support welcome and desired from NGOs.

Mohammed Shobrak: Comment – Türkiye and Algeria would benefit from expert help to identify sites.

Taner Hatipoglu: Comment – We have experience because we have a breeding station. We are looking for similar sites.

Syria – Summary by Nabegh Ghazal Asswad

- Government delegate not present
- Security situation not clear and activity not permitted outside cities. Hopefully this situation will improve soon.

Chris Bowden: Q – Can anything be done to improve situation?

Nabegh Ghazal Asswad: A – We have to wait. Sanctions/outside factors are also a problem at the moment.

Saudi Arabia – Summary by Mohammed Shobrak

- Described new hunting laws and work on electrocution risks
- Hopes to continue working with the NBI IWG. We need to learn from each other as much as possible, including sharing awareness materials.
- Communication is very important for this migratory species – to identify hot spots.
- Satellite tracking could improve the situation for all countries particularly with regard to knowledge of migration.

Ethiopia – Summary by Mengistu Wondafrash

- Government delegate not present.
- Status in Ethiopia not clear.
- One more intensive assessment planned (2023 or 2024) – to make final decision – EWCA can hopefully provide the funding for this survey.

Nabegh Ghazal Asswad: Comment – Thanked Mr Wondafrash for representing in absence of government.

Sergey Dereliev: Comment – Agreed with Nabegh Ghazal Asswad. Welcomes existing support. Hopes there will be an increase in government support. Request for all countries to share challenges, beyond funding.

3.12 Potential funding sources available for implementation of agreed priorities, and any commitments on funding applications

Sergey Dereliev thanked the funder reps from Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund - MBZ (Nicholas Heard) and Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – CEPF (Awatef Abiadh) for attending this meeting.

Awatef Abiadh: CEPF is supporting NBI work in Morocco, including on fisheries and agriculture. CEPF expect to support Morocco in updating the national action plan (PANIC).

Chair: Confirmed plans to work with CEPF before the end of the year.

Nabegh Ghazal Asswad: Q for CEPF – are Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Syria eligible for funding?

Awatef Abiadh: A – Morocco and Algeria are eligible. Turkey is not eligible – endorsement letter not signed. Syria excluded because of the conflict. 2nd phase ends this year. Expect to have 3rd phase that will start in 2024 for 10 years (in Mediterranean basin in general, need to wait for call for proposal). Bridging period – have funds to support civil society organisations, smaller grants to keep things going. Condition is to work with civil society organisations. It has become tough to work with NGOs in Algeria – new law does not permit it. Saudi Arabia not eligible. Morocco only eligible country in reality.

Sergey: Q – Does the funding cover different types of activities? What size of projects are funded and what type?

Awatef Abiadh: A – Up to US\$ 250,000k. 2023 bridging period – small grant US\$ 20,000-30,000 co-funding or small grant for local conservation. All types of activity considered that contributes including scientific work. Activity part of the Action Plan helps in terms of application. No fixed agenda on call for proposal yet.

Nicholas Heard (MBZ Species Conservation Fund) – small grants of up to US\$ 25,000 - 6 months to a year. Often includes hands on activity. Contributing to conservation of species and helps if it is linked to an action plan – can include scientific work, monitoring. Highly threatened species. Competitive process US\$ 1.5million dollars per year. Usually only 10% of applications successful. Average grant size is US\$ 9,000. Prefer to develop local capacity for species conservation.

Amina Fellous: Q – Any projects from Algeria so far? Nicholas Heard: A – Have supported a handful of projects - two or three.

Sergey Dereliev: Q – Any type of organisation? Nicholas Heard: A – Yes, any country, organisation or individual. Contribution to species conservation is key.

Chris Bowden: Q – Timing of submissions? Nicholas Heard: A – Three grant rounds (end Oct, end Feb, end June) per year but application always open.

Nabegh Ghazal Asswad: Comment – OSME (Ornithological Society of the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia) - possible grants for eastern population. Could be co funding. Especially for Türkiye.

Chris: Comment – African Bird Club – small grants also available.

Khadija Bourass: Q – Is there a way to get more feedback from proposals that were not accepted? Has already put in an NBI application. A – Very difficult to review all applications. Often have to turn down good projects because not enough funds. Not always to do with the quality of the proposal, many good projects are turned down.

Sergey Dereliev: Q – Regarding the grant size in 2025 in the third phase of CEPF. Is it US\$ 250,000? Is there a rolling application opportunity or set deadlines? A – Not yet identified

Nabegh Ghazal Asswad: Q – Would CEPF consider Syria? Currently does not qualify, although perhaps possible for climate change related proposals. To follow up.

Mohamed Shobrak: Q – Does inclusion in Action Plan give more chance of approval? Nicolas Heard: A – Yes, definitely/Anything that helps increase the relevance of the contribution to species conservation.

3.13 Opportunities or needs for cross-cutting work or experience?

Chris Bowden: Comment - More could potentially be done to work together in a crosscutting manner and linking with key activities. Could be sharing more papers and reports.

Mohammed Shobrak: Comment – Satellite tagging. An obvious area many countries are interested in. Sharing experience and training for satellite tag attaching.

Sergey Dereliev: Comment – Encourage all partners to contact Chris Bowden, Jorge Orueta and Nabegh Ghazal Asswad for support with applications for funders – to make them stand out and connect with priority activities. All partners identify potential projects and funders and share progress. Secretariat or key NGOs could offer letters of support for applications.

Mohammed Shobrak: Comment – Country partners to check in with the implementation plan to ensure the highest priority urgent actions are being addressed.

3.14 How can the IWG be more helpful to individual range states?

This agenda item provide chance to give feedback to the Coordinating Unit and the Secretariat if there is anything more needed.

Amina Fellous: Comment – Stage of finalising Algeria database of NBI records. Need old references from Morocco. Will ask Chris Bowden or Jorge Orueta for help on this.

Mengistu Wondafrash: Comment – Do Government focal points know the coordinator and the regional co-coordinators? Do they need to be reminded?

Sergey Dereliev: Comment – the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat has developed an online workspace – indispensable tool for the work of the AEWA Technical Committee. Sauch workspaces have

been also integrated into the websites of the AEWA International Species Working Groups. Currently in process of technologically updating these websites. Once re-launched, all members will receive personal accounts; the workspace hosts and archives all communication and provides for improves ways of working.

Chris Bowden: Comment – Used to have IAGNBI but this is less active and could even disappear. IAGNBI focusses nowadays more on the reintroduction topic. Should this (IWG) group be in better communication with IAGNBI? Still a role? Particularly with translocations being more a focus.

Widade Oubrou: Comment – Would be keen to contact IAGNBI when developing plans for translocations.

Amina: Comment – Will also be in touch to pursue Algeria plans.

Mohammed Shobrak: Q – Can a member of this group be an observer of IAGNBI? Sergey: A – the AEWA NBI IWG is an intergovernmental group so other organisations are present as observers. Christiane Böhm is the chair of IAGNBI and attending this meeting. Maintaining a link with IAGNBI is important. Approaching IAGNBI could be done in amore coordinated manner through the IWG e.g. requesting Chris Bowden to liaise. If support from IAGNBI is needed, please approach Chris Bowden.

Jorge Orueta: Comment – Could NBI observations be uploaded to ebird.org? Or some other common platform? Would be good to use the same platform. Could have a common database but if there is something that already exists would be easier. A - Good that eBird platform is used to upload all NBI records including old records where possible. Chris Bowden to also check options for other platforms eg Observations.org in this context and update.

3.15 Process for considering the need of updating the NBI ISSAP for 2025

- Sergey presented the proposed process.
- Options for any ISSAP reaching the end of its implementation period: 1) No need for amendment. Could recommend extension for 10 years. 2) Could update some of the background information 3) Could revise fully, including the action framework 4) Could retire the plan if not needed.
- Proposal for a process to decide on the option for 2025:
 - 1. Coordination Unit & Secretariat review the goal, purpose, and objectives of the ISSAP vis-à-vis current (Nov 2022 – April 2023)
 - 2. Produce a short document, also containing recommendations, for review by the Range States (May 2023)
 - 3. Range States provide feedback and agree on the recommendations (June 2023)
- AEWA Technical Committee could then advise on the option for MOP9 – extend, update or revise.
- Need to agree on the option by mid-2023, since a revision would need two years, if this is the agreed option.

All in agreement with the proposed process of assessing the ISSAP implementation and recommending an option for 2025. Coordination Unit and Secretariat will communicate with the range states on this in coming months.

3.16 Dates and venue of the next meeting

- Next meeting needs to be face-to-face. In NBI range country ideally. Otherwise could be in Germany at the Secretariat. Funding needed. To be explored by coordinators.
- Timing: If revision of plan needed could be timed with/part of the workshop on this. In that case needed before October 2024 at the latest. Revision of the plan but also review of implementation plan – combined purpose. If revision not needed could be later in 2025/2026). In addition, could convene annual virtual meetings to review progress of plan.

3.17 Election of new Chair

- Morocco – Current Chair was thanked by the Secretariat for the last 5 years. Rotating the chair has been previously agreed. Secretariat has had an expression of interest from Saudi Arabia to chair the NBI IWG for the next inter-sessional period. Saudi Arabia was unanimously elected as the new chair.
- Mohammed Shobrak thanked and welcomed as new Chair.

3.18 Next steps

- Sergey Dereliev thanked the partners for the work over last two days. The draft revised implementation plan for next three years will be finalised and produced by the Coordination Unit. The draft will be produced in next few weeks for comment from range states, and finalised version by end of year.
- The draft meeting report will be also shared for review and comments before finalising by the end of the year.
- It was agreed all PowerPoints to be shared amongst participants.
- Morocco thanked participants and offered to host a further visit by the IWG in future. Wished Saudi Arabia best for chairing.

3.19 Closure of the meeting

The meeting was closed by the outgoing chair Morocco.

**3rd MEETING OF THE AEWA NORTHERN BALD IBIS
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**
25-26 October 2022 – Virtual Meeting

APPENDIX 1

PRELIMINARY ANNOTATED AGENDA

Dates: 25-26 October 2022

Venue: Virtual – Zoom

Organiser: RSPB and UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

Chair: Morocco

Meeting Documents:

The following working documents will be made available to you for review in advance of the meeting (non-exclusive):

- Annotated agenda
- Report of 2nd NBI IWG Meeting including agreed Implementation Plan
- 2021 Update Reports on Implementation Plan for each country
- 2022 Update Reports on Implementation Plan for each country

The following information documents will be made available to you in due course (non-exclusive):

- List of participants

Main Objectives:

- Provide updates (written reports) from the Range States on the implementation of the Northern Bald Ibis International Single Species Action Plan (NBI ISSAP);
- Provide national overview presentations highlighting the species status, progress of implementation, emerging issues, challenges, with special focus identifying impediments to executing the implementation plan;
- Highlight new developments;
- Update the implementation plan of the NBI ISSAP;
- Identify funding needs and opportunities for implementation actions in the agreed implementation plan;
- Identify where cross-cutting work may be needed and agree on how to instigate this;
- Identify how can the IWG provide better support, develop links with other networks and look ahead to the next meeting with outline plan;
- Agree on the process for considering the need of updating the NBI ISSAP for 2025.

Meeting language: Meeting documents will be provided in English and the meeting language will also be English.

TUESDAY THE 25th OF OCTOBER 2022

Times stated are Morocco, BST. (+1hr CET, Algeria) (+2hr Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Syria)

Time	Item	Document	Remarks	[Lead]
09:00	Welcome and Introduction	--		Chair Organiser
09:05	Adoption of the agenda	AEWA NBI IWG 3.2		Chair
09:10	Introduction of attendees	--	Tour du table	Chair
09:25	Confirmation of observers	--	Presentation and confirmation of observer organizations.	Chair
09:30	Report of the Coordinator with NBI species status, general overview	--	Presentation	CB
	<i>Country reports</i> Chair/CB			
10:00	Morocco – country report with 5 mins for questions	--	Presentation	[MOR]
10.45	Algeria – country report with 5 mins for questions	--	Presentation	[ALG]
11.10	<i>Coffee Break</i>			
11.25	Türkiye – country report with 5 mins for questions	--	Presentation	[TUR]
11.50	Syria – country report with 5 mins for questions	--	Presentation	[SYR]
12.00	Saudi Arabia – country report with 5 mins for questions	--	Presentation	[KSA]
12.10	Ethiopia – country report with 5 mins for questions	--	Presentation	[ETH]
12.20	Summing up and any general questions arising	--		Chair
12:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>			
13.30	Brief overview on the status of the NBI populations and the progress of implementation of the ISSAP	--	Presentation	CB
13.40	Workflow for updating the implementation plan in working groups	--	Introduction	SD

13.50	Parallel Breakout Groups (West and East) to review progress and propose revised actions for each country.	AEWA NBI IWG 3.3	Facilitated discussion	Chair, CB, SD
16.45	<i>Close of day 1 (within each breakout group)</i>			

WEDNESDAY THE 26th OF OCTOBER 2022				
Times stated are Morocco, BST. (+1hr CET, Algeria) (+2hr Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Syria)				
Time	Item	Document	Remarks	[Lead]
09:00	Welcome back from the Chair	--		Chair, CB
09.05	Parallel Breakout Groups (West and East) to review progress and propose revised actions for each country.	--	Facilitated discussion. Groups finalise from yesterday and agree on content for presentation	Breakout facilitators & country reps.
11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>			
11.15	Presentation of updated actions for Western population	--	Nominated presenter	
11.40	Comments/discussion from floor	--		CB
11.55	Presentation of updated actions for Eastern population	--	Nominated presenter	
12.20	Comments/discussion from floor	--		CB
12.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>			
13.30	For new (and existing) actions, each country to highlight sources of support and potential challenges for implementation	--	Facilitator to record the listed points for each country	Chair
14.15	Potential funding sources available for implementation of agreed priorities, and any commitments on funding applications	--	Presentation, discussion,	SD
14.45	Opportunities or needs for cross-cutting work or experience?	--	Discussion	Chair, CB
15.15	How can the IWG be more helpful to individual range states?	--	Discussion	Chair, CB
15.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>			
16.00	Process for considering the need of updating the NBI ISSAP for 2025	--	Discussion	Chair, SD

16.15	Dates and venue of the next meeting	--	Discussion: the need for a face-to-face meeting, and potential hosts (and funders) for such a meeting.	Chair
16.30	Election of new Chair	--		Secretariat
16.45	<i>Closure of the meeting</i>			

APPENDIX 2

List of Participants

NATIONAL DELEGATIONS			
Representative	Position/Organisation/Institution	Contact Information	Function in the IWG
ALGERIA			
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Ms Badia LAHMAR	Directorate General of Forest (DGF). Protection of fauna and flora Direction. In charge of protected areas and ecological monitoring. Rue Doudou Mokhtar, Ben Aknoun. Algiers. Algeria	Tel.: +213 5 54 38 13 58 Email: badialahmar@yahoo.com	National Government Representative
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List of Acronyms

- AEWA – African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement
- ANEF/ANN – National Agency for Water and Forests (Morocco)
- ANN – National Agency for Nature Conservation (Algeria)
- CEPF – Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
- CMS – Convention of Migratory Species
- DGF – Directorate General of Forest (Algeria)
- GREPOM – Group for Research & Protection of Birds in Morocco (BirdLife Morocco)
- ISSAP – International single species action plan
- IWG – International working group
- MBZ – Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
- NBI – Northern Bald Ibis
- PANIC – Plan d'Action National Ibis Chauve (National Action Plan NBI – Morocco)
- RSPB – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife UK)
- SEO – Sociedad Espanola Ornitología (BirdLife Spain)
- SMNP – Souss-Massa National Park
- UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme

AEWA Northern Bald Ibis International Working Group

Implementation Plan for 2023-2025¹



SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
Result 1.1. Chick mortality on nest is minimised						
1.1.1. Prevent human disturbance and incidental nest destruction by predators such as ravens through close monitoring MOR, SYR, TUR	TUR – pro-actively monitor interaction between ravens and wild-breeding NBI pairs	Local staff in Birecik Breeding Station (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - MAF)	Internal funding of MAF	Medium	Rolling	Not much problem with raptors. Occasional predation by martens when not deterred by dogs. 2 NBI pairs outside nesting station on cliffs around town, not protected, but still low predation risk. Actions may be required at short notice to react to new situations.
	TUR - In case of detected negative impact, undertake active management measure for ravens	Local staff in Birecik Breeding Station (MAF)	TBC	TBC	TBC	

¹ This implementation plan was developed during the 3rd meeting of the AEWA Northern Bald Ibis International Group meeting on 25-26 October 2022 on the basis of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Northern Bald Ibis (November 2015) and was endorsed by the IWG members by correspondence in February 2024.

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
	SYR – N/A					
	MOR - To maintain surveillance through wardens on breeding sites & feeding areas	DRANEF- SM	1,800,000 MAD, secured)	Essential	Ongoing; During the entire implementation plan period	May require only low-level monitoring but detailed initial monitoring needed to determine any requirements is priority ²
	MOR - Acquire monitoring material for additional wardens (motorbikes, binoculars, telescopes, etc.)	DRANEF - SM GREPOM	ANEF / BirdLife / CEPF 300,000 MAD for 3 years	Essential	2023-2025	
	MOR - Raise awareness among local users at breeding	DRANEF - SM GREPOM	10,000 MAD ANEF - GREPOM	Essential	2023-2025 breeding season	
1.1.2. Collect discarded/lost fishing lines and nets around colonies MOR	Routinely implemented					Included in the daily task of the wardens

² Visit was paid to the sites, and, under the current circumstances, it does not seem urgent to establish permanent surveillance. Subject to some initial intensive monitoring, it may be enough with some surveys to identify the potential conflict with local users, as well as to investigate the local knowledge about the colony, raise awareness and evaluate. [visit report available from PNSM].

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
1.1.3. Increase awareness amongst fishermen MOR	Covered by the last activity of Action 1.1.1					
1.1.4. Provide (safe) nesting material around colonies MOR, SYR	MOR – currently N/A SYR – N/A					MOR - Not currently needed for Morocco population [keep listed for future consideration]
1.1.5. Improve nesting ledges if Syrian population increases SYR	SYR – N/A					Currently no breeding population in Syria
Result 1.2. Water & Food availability maintained or increased						
1.2.1. Maintain the reservoir in proximity of the colony SYR	Maintain the infrastructure and the stream/watercourses of the reservoir	Ministry of Local Administration and Environment – MLAE (Belal Alhayek) + Ministry of Irrigation - MI	Internal funding of MLAE & MI	Medium	Rolling	
1.2.2. Establish food availability monitoring and alarm system for cases of drought SYR, MOR	SYR – currently N/A MOR – cf. Action 4.7 (currently N/A)					MOR - To discuss in the framework of PANIC [for potential trials of supplementary feeding, but kept here just for future consideration]

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
1.2.3. Maintain supply of fresh water at waterholes close to colonies MOR	MOR - To maintain fresh water supply by the colonies.	PNSM	Internal PNSM funding	High	During the entire implementation plan period	Part of wardens' routine
	To establish watering points at any new sites	DRANEF - SM	Internal DRANEF – SM funding	Low	Rolling	Only if NBI reuse these sites
1.2.4. Establish emergency water ponds for cases of drought SYR	SYR – N/A					Currently no breeding population in Syria
Result 1.4. Catastrophic impact of diseases prevented						
1.4.1. Maintain regular monitoring and hygiene protocol TUR	Maintain regular interaction and implementation of the protocol between the Directorate of Nature Protection & National Parks and the Directorate of Food and Control of MAF to exchange alerts for any avian disease outbreaks in the area in domestic and wild birds.	Forest Engineer and Veterinarian in the Birecik Breeding Station (Forest Engineer: Hacer SÜRER; Veterinarian: Uğur ÖZBAY)	N/A	High	Rolling	Disease is major risk to Turkish population, all being at one colony at high density. Particularly avian influenza. Continue existing hygiene and monitoring protocols, e.g. high standards for food preparation. Following are considerations for additional measures.
	Continue implementing enhanced hygiene protocol for staff in contact with the birds – uniforms and shoes to be used only in the station and washed there +	Like above	Internal funding by MAF	High	Rolling	Various measures to be considered when outbreaks suspected, e.g. put shading over cage, various levels of 'lock-down'. Good experience

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
	disinfected; establish safe change area for staff.					in zoos and other captive breeding centres, with examples provided by WWT and Sharjah Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife.
	Continue implementing measure to reduce opportunities for contact between NBI and wild birds at the feeding station by netting the feeding pots.	Like above	Internal funding by MAF	High	Rolling	<p>Reduce access for other birds (mainly migrant waterbirds rather than local landbirds) to ibis food which could bring AI. Hygiene for people in contact with birds in captivity – two visits per day year round. May need measures to reduce risk of transmission through personnel: disinfectant, use mask and gloves when preparing food; boards across walkways where staff must change shoes. (Staff don't currently have uniforms – introduce work-only clothes.)</p> <p>Screening: samples taken annually for salmonella etc. and other disease monitoring, but this has limited value as deaths often sudden. More important is rapid reaction when find a sick bird (again, AI is the priority).</p>

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
						<p>Risks from visitors low despite c.30,000 per year as they are kept >150m away from the birds. (maintain this!)</p> <p>A quarantine or isolation area is being introduced for sick birds.</p>
<p>1.4.2. Create new semi-wild population away from Birecik TUR</p>	Identify suitable locations and undertake a feasibility study in order to choose the most appropriate one.	MAF (Reshad EKTİREN & Taner Hatipoglu) + University of Urfa + other universities in the SE region of TUR (HARRAN University, DICLE University)	Internal funding by MAF	High	End 2025	Criteria for feasibility assessment discussed at IAGNABI 2016 but refer also to the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on Translocation. Consider requesting external expert support for the feasibility study.
<p>1.4.3. Establish disease emergency response system. MOR, TUR, ALG</p>	TUR - Continue implementing the disease emergency response system for Avian Influenza.	MAF (Taner Hatipoglu & Rashed Ektiren) + Birecik Breeding (Forest Engineer: Hacer SÜRER; Veterinarian: Uğur ÖZBAY)	N/A	High	Rolling	Protocol exists for daily operation of the centre with hygiene and monitoring included – continue this. Follow EAZA guidelines and MAF guidelines. Use both. Activities link to Action 1.4.1., activity 2.

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
	MOR - Update protocol for health scanning of NBI populations	DRANEF- SM ONSSA	N/A	Medium	Ongoing	Protocol exists but keep for future ref. Note issue of AI becoming endemic and affecting new species. No cases reported in NBI yet. MOR has efficient emergency system.
	MOR - Establish partnerships for the implementation of the protocol	DRANEF – SM	N/A	Medium	ASAP	LARV consulted when needed, e.g. when birds are found
	MOR - Implement protocol when necessary (note this is independent of species)	DRANEF – SM GREPOM	5,000 MAD	Medium	Ongoing	
	ALG – currently N/A					AI recognised as major issue in ALG & additional veterinary expertise needs to be consulted here.
1.4.5. Enforce protocols for carcass and waste removal from domestic bird farms in case of outbreaks MOR	MOR – Coordinate with competent services and local authorities when needed	DRANEF - SM ONSSA	Internal funding, as needed	As needed	2023-2025	Ongoing

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
1.4.6. Apply stringent health control and screening of captive birds prior to conservation translocation ALL	TUR – no activities envisaged for the next 3 years					Translocation in Turkey unlikely by 2025; Linked to outcome of Action 1.4.2.
	SYR – N/A					
	MOR – N/A					
	ALG - check sanitary protocol required by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.	ALG - General Direction of Forests (DGF) & Veterinary Direction.			2023 (prior to arrival!)	Administrative process to be followed. Also check IAGNBI guidelines on sanitary protocol. Christiane Boehm will consult vet group of European Zoo Association (EAZA)
Result 1.5. Reduced intra-specific competition for nesting sites						
1.5.1. Enlarge and improve nesting ledges MOR	MOR - study technical feasibility of ledge management in the colonies	DRANEF - SM / GREPOM	Internal funding	High	2023	Project in progress with AEW/A/EU support, late 2022
	To implement management interventions selected	SEO-BL / GREPOM / DRANEF – SM	6,000 MAD	High	2023	
	To monitor the impact of the implemented management	DRANEF - SM	Internal funding	High	2024-2025	

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
1.5.2. Establish new natural ledges MOR	To be done as part of Action 1.5.1.					
Result 1.6. Human disturbance is minimised						
1.6.1. Maintain and improve wardening at the colonies MOR, SYR	MOR – cf. Action 1.1.1 SYR – N/A					
1.6.2. Increase awareness amongst local people and visitors MOR, SYR	MOR - Design and implement an awareness plan in Tamri region	DRANEF - SM / GREPOM	20,000 MAD (to review)	Medium	2023-25	Implement proposed activities of PAG of Tamri SIBE
	To keep the awareness system towards local population and visitors in the colonies at PNSM	PNSM / GREPOM	3,000 MAD	Medium	During the entire implementation plan period	
	SYR – N/A					
1.6.3. Provide alternative water sources for pastoralists SYR	SYR – N/A					

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
1.6.4. Manage access by pastoralists to existing water sources SYR	SYR – N/A					
1.6.5. Designate all colonies as protected MOR, SYR, TUR	SYR – N/A					The former colony in Palmyra (SYR) was protected before 2010
	TUR – no activities needed at present					Current Birecik colony is protected and well safeguarded from human disturbance, and any new colony would be likewise, as a precondition to its establishment. Continue this. No additional measures needed at present.
	MOR – to launch and pursue the ongoing process to create a formally protected area in Tamri	DRANEF – SM ANEF	N/A	Essential	2023-2025	
1.6.6. Develop and implement management plans for the protected areas MOR, SYR, TUR	SYR – N/A					No MP for Palmyra, but not priority at the moment as no colony at present
	TUR - carry on with the implementation of the management plan for Birecik	MAF (Regional Director: Hacı Ahmet ÇİÇEK) & Birecik Breeding Station (Forestry	Internal funding by MAF	Essential	Ongoing/Rolling	

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
		Engineer: Hacer SÜRER)				
	MOR – To update SMNP management plan	ANEF DRANEF – SM	100,000 MAD	Essential	2023-2025	Will be produced in relation to new law and new strategy of ANEF. Management Plan for 2022-30.
	To implement the management at Tamri SIBE ³ and Ramsar site	ANEF DRANEF – SM	300,000 MAD	Essential	2023-2025	Will be achieved within the wetlands strategy of ANEF
Result 1.7. Predation is minimised						
1.7.1. Monitor predation levels	SYR – N/A					
MOR, SYR	MOR – being implemented at a low intensity			Low	Ongoing	Ongoing but remains low in Morocco at present.
1.7.2. Undertake predation control measures when necessary	SYR – Monitor the density of ravens and the influence of dump site of Tadmur on raven numbers in the area	MLAE (Belal Alhayek) + Al Badia Commission + Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW)	Internal funding by MLAE & Al Badia + external grants (hybrid funding) – amount TBC	Medium	End of 2025 (security situation permitting)	Ongoing but remains low in Morocco at present.
MOR, SYR	MOR – as necessary			Low		
Result 1.8. Problematic buildings on cliffs are removed and new ones prevented						

³ SIBE: Site d'intérêt biologique et écologique: site of biological and ecological interest, not an official conservation tool but committed to be protected.

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
1.8.1. Strengthen enforcement of legislation, also through the involvement of other authorities than NP MOR	MOR - Monitoring and control of constructions	DRANEF - SM	Operating costs	Low	During the entire implementation plan period	Continuing to work with stakeholders. Destruction of illegal construction along the SMNP coast has been carried out by the authorities recently.
Result 1.9. Impact of collapse of breeding cliffs is minimised						
1.9.1. Evaluate possibility of improving current roosting sites as potential new breeding sites MOR	MOR – N/A in this implementation plan period					MOR - See previous activities related to improving breeding sites. Not relevant during the period of this implementation plan. No incident of collapsing breeding cliffs in recent times, Difficult to predict and to plan for.
Result 2.1. Impact of locust treatment is prevented						
2.1.1. Continue work with locust control unit to avoid toxic treatment within Souss Massa NP MOR	MOR - Maintain the coordination and collaboration with the authorities responsible of anti-locust fight	DRANEF - SM	N/A	Medium	During the entire implementation plan period	No incidence since 1984, but keep under review.

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
Result 2.2. Illegal killing and trapping is minimised						
2.2.1. Raise awareness among hunter/falconers on satellite tagging and NBI conservation KSA, SYR	KSA - Run at least one event a year, such as a workshop, focused on the areas (1) between Jeddah and Jizan and (2) north KSA, with NBI specifically featured.	National Center for Wildlife - NCW	Internal funding by NCW	High	Annually	There is ongoing awareness work with falconers through the falconer club (KSA).
	SYR - Annual awareness event in late spring/early summer to focus attention on the possible migration of NBI from Birecik releases (along-side awareness work for other species)	MLAE (Belal Alhayek) + SSCW (Hunada Sadat)	Internal funding by MLAE + external grants	High	Annually	
2.2.2. Reduce visibility of satellite tags by finding alternative means of attachment ALL	N/A in this implementation plan period					
2.2.3. Raise awareness among hunters/trappers and/or general public on NBI in key areas, where needed ALL	TUR – Continue ongoing work with local population in Birecik (e.g. festival associated with releases) (post-2025 will need further activities in case of a new location for a semi-wild population)	MAF (Regional Director: Hacı Ahmet ÇİÇEK) & Birecik Breeding Station	N/A	High	Ongoing/Rolling	
	SYR – as in 2.2.1					

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
	KSA – as in 2.2.1					Currently no key areas known in KSA
	ETH – N/A					
	ALG – Exhibition of NBI at animal parks (see Action 3.7.1)	DGF, Animal parks	Funding from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	High	2023-2024	
	ALG - Hunters questionnaires & sensitisation (after initial site ⁱ selection)	DGF, ANN, NGOs, National Federation of Hunters Association	As above	High	2023-2024	
	ALG - Organization of awareness workshops	DGF	As above	High	2023-2024	
	ALG - Use of social media to raise awareness and promote vigilance for NBI	Bird Observers FB pages ‘To save wildlife in Algeria’	As above	High	2023-2024	
Result 2.3. Risk of electrocution and collision with power lines is minimised						
2.3.1. Identify critical and dangerous power lines around known key sites	SYR – N/A					70-80% of the network in SYR considered to be of bird safe design (Egyptian Vulture project)

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
ALL	TUR – No activities needed					Dangerous powerlines already identified in Birecik area therefore this action is not required in Turkey.
	KSA – No activities envisaged					No key sites known currently in KSA. Identification work going on as part of the Egyptian Vulture project (similar geographic areas as NBI).
	YEM – N/A					
	ETH – No activities needed					ETH no dangerous power lines in the known site).
	JOR – consider possible activities					Some dangerous powerlines were identified in the Egyptian Vulture project.
	ALG – currently N/A (after initial site selection for reintroduction)					
	MOR – consider possible activities	DRANEF - SM	N/A	Low	2023	
2.3.2. Retrofit design or put dangerous sections of power lines underground ALL	TUR- MAF to liaise with the two utility companies at Birecik to secure pylons and wires; involve Ministry of Energy and Doga Dernegi	MAF (Director General of Nature Protection & National Parks: Kadir ÇOKÇETİN)	N/A (tbc for the actual retrofitting)	Essential	End 2023 (for the actual retrofitting by the end of 2025)	In Birecik additional collision risk at night or sandstorms. Need to increase visibility – range of options exist in various countries, e.g. plastic streamers or balls etc; mitigation measures need to be

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
						suited to species, problem and location. CMS/AEWA guidelines on avoiding/mitigating power line impact on birds to be used.
	SYR – N/A					
	KSA – N/A					In KSA no key sites – general improvement of the grid (in line with wider obligations not specific to NBI) but beyond scope of a single species plan.
	YEM – N/A					
	ETH – N/A					
	JOR – consider possible activities					
	ALG – currently N/A (after initial site selection for reintroduction)					
	MOR – consider possible activities	DRANEF - SM	N/A	Low	2023	
2.3.3. Take NBI into account in SEA/EIA procedures for new power lines (possible	SYR – N/A TUR – No activities envisaged KSA – N/A YEM – N/A ETH – N/A					

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
re-routing) around key areas ALL	ALG – currently N/A (after initial site selection for reintroduction)					
	MOR	ANEF DRANEF – SM	N/A	Medium	During the entire implementation plan period	To be covered at PANIC
2.3.4. Introduce bird safe standards into national regulations ALL	Coordination Unit to provide to Range States examples of national legislation that embodies bird safe standards (liaise with the CMS Energy Task Force)	Chris Bowden & Secretariat	N/A	High	End of 2023	Much bigger subject with concern beyond NBI – beyond the scope of a single SSAP although should be highlighted where possible with reference to this SSAP.
	ALL Range States to actively consider amending their respective legislation following that example as a guidance	Respective AEWA implementation authorities	TBC	High	End 2025	Some work in this respect is already taking place in ETH
	JOR – consider possible activities					
	ALG - Approach Electricity Society regarding safe design of pylons	DGF letter to Minister of Energy	Funding from the Ministry of Energy	Medium	2023	This is a relatively low priority, as there are very few cases of electrocution reported in ALG
	MOR - Take NBI into account in SEA/EIA procedures for new power lines (possible re-routing) around key areas	ANEF DRANEF - SM	N/A	Medium	During the entire implementation plan period	MOR – this point will be considered in more detail at PANIC. Already considered and not major concern in key areas.

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
Result 2.4. Establishment of windfarms close to key sites is avoided						
2.4.1. Exclude NBI key areas from renewable energy development ALL	SYR – N/A KSA – N/A YEM – N/A ETH – N/A MOR – N/A					No detail or key areas in KSA. No projects known in the ETH site. MOR – not a problem in the NBI areas
	TUR - Routinely monitor for potential renewable energy projects that might be planned for the NBI protected area.	MAF (Regional Directorate)	N/A	High	Ongoing/Rolling	In TUR solar farms are planned but should be kept out of the protected area used by the NBI under existing rules. Need to monitor in case of change to rules or priorities: routine/ongoing work.
	ALG – currently N/A (after initial site selection for reintroduction)					Extensions of solar developments near old breeding sites in the high plateaus, not near the cliffs.
2.4.2. Take NBI into account in SEA/EIA procedures for windfarms (possible re-location) around key areas ALL	SYR – N/A KSA – N/A YEM – N/A ETH – N/A MOR – N/A ALG – currently N/A (after initial site selection for reintroduction)					
	TUR - Routinely monitor for potential wind farm projects in the vicinity of Birecik.	MAF (Regional Directorate)	N/A	High	Ongoing/Rolling	Currently no windfarm projects are known for the Birecik area.

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
Result 2.5. Survival chance of dispersing juveniles is increased						
2.5.1. Identify feeding and roosting sites outside Souss-Massa/Tamri and assess their status MOR	MOR - Continue with survey to identify sites	ANEF DRANEF - SM GREPOM	5,000 MAD	Essential	2023-2025	
	MOR - Tagging with GPS transmitters (including tracking down any birds that stop moving/fatalities to confirm cause of death)	ANEF RANEF - SM GREPOM	40,000 MAD	Essential	2023-2025	To consider extensive colour-ringing action here for general monitoring and movements monitoring (at PANIC)
	To gather information from fishermen and other resource-people	DRANEF - SM GREPOM	N/A	Essential	2023-2025	
2.5.2. Put conservation measures in place as necessary MOR	MOR – To define actions tailored to each site	ANEF DRANEF – SM GREPOM	N/A	Medium	2023-2025	Ongoing
	To implement the defined actions	ANEF DRANEF – SM GREPOM	To be defined accordingly	Medium	2024-2025	Ongoing
Result 2.6. Decline in area of feeding habitat is minimised						
2.6.1. Monitor and control sand extraction	TUR – currently N/A					Sand extraction is forbidden along the entire riverbank from

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
activities; enforce existing legislation TUR						Birecik to the Syrian border. Nothing additional needed at this stage.
2.6.2. Promote NBI-friendly crop pattern, e.g. by subsidising MOR, TUR	TUR – Systematically monitor the ongoing change in agricultural practices and the projected impact on NBI	MAF (Regional Directorate)	N/A	High	Rolling	NBI feed along the valley, often in agricultural land – especially aubergine & parsley fields, pistachio groves. Ongoing change from traditional agriculture substituted by pistachio groves
	TUR - Devise and implement action in case of identified significant projected impact	MAF (Regional Directorate)	TBC	TBC	TBC	
	MOR – currently N/A					
2.6.3. Promotion of low-input crops MOR, TUR	TUR – Continue the current practice of increased food supply in the breeding station when pesticides applied by local farmers	Birecik Breeding Station staff (Forest Engineer: Hacer Süreer)	N/A	High	Ongoing/Rolling	Some pesticide use, but farmer relations are good and they inform NBI team of planned use.
	MOR – currently N/A					
2.6.4. Promote eco-friendly source of income MOR, TUR	MOR – Identification of new projects to implement with local communities	DRANEF – SM GREPOM AGIR	N/A	High	2023-2025	Ongoing, need to continue working with communities and promote sustainable development.

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
	MOR - Implementation of the projects identified	DRANEF – SM GREPOM AGIR	200,000 MAD	Medium	2023-2025	
	TUR – currently N/A					
2.6.5. Promote NBI-based tourism for direct benefit to local community MOR, TUR, ALG	MOR - To develop a tourism product on NBI	DRANEF - SM	100,000 MAD	High	2023-2025	
	MOR - To organise and promote marketing around that tourism product	DRANEF - SM Communal organisations Tourism sector partners	N/A	Medium	2023-2025	
	ALG – Work with local communities on tourism/ engagement opportunities around NBI	DGF	TBC	Medium	2023-2025	
	TUR – N/A					Limited scope for extension of this in Turkey. Nearly all visitors to Birecik breeding centre visit very briefly, and their visits bring limited benefit to local community (only a small shop).

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
Result 2.7. Habitat loss/degradation due to infrastructure/ urban development is minimised						
2.7.1. NBI areas taken into account in physical planning and SEA/EIA procedures ALL	TUR - MAF to liaise with Birecik municipality with respect to excluding key NBI feeding areas from housing planning; involve Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation which is responsible for physical planning too	MAF (General Directorate of Nature Protection & National Parks)	N/A	Essential	Immediate	Ongoing housing expansion of the town of Birecik.
	MOR - Take NBI into account in all major physical planning / development and in SEA/EIA procedures for key areas for Bald Ibis	ANEF DRANEF - SM	N/A	Essential	During the entire implementation plan period	
Result 2.8. Desertification of habitat in key areas is prevented or mitigated						
2.8.1. Regulate agriculture activities in key areas KSA	KSA - N/A					Currently no known sites in KSA.
2.8.2. Regulate grazing in key areas (through promotion of sustainable practices with local communities)	SYR – currently N/A YEM – N/A ETH – No activities needed MOR – N/A					No pressure or change in threat from grazing (not much grazing at all) or other factors at the ETH known site. Ibises don't need long grass or bushland, and they use highly modified habitats. Traditional

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
ETH, MOR, SYR, YEM						land management systems are compatible with ibis survival. No evidence of negative impact of grazing on Bald Ibis Population in Morocco where regional grazing plans exist. No problem in National Park or Tamri.
2.8.3. Support provision of alternative sources of energy (gas, solar, etc.) and improve energy use efficiency SYR, MOR	SYR – N/A MOR – currently N/A					
2.8.4. Enforce environmental regulations on charcoal production YEM	YEM - N/A					
2.8.5. Identify degraded habitats in key areas and restore them ALL	TUR – No activities needed KSA – No activities envisaged ETH – No activities needed MOR – No activities needed					TUR - No habitat limitation at present around Birecik, and core Protected Area (179 ha) is safe from degrading factors. Birecik PA is part of a larger preservation area, extending along the Euphrates (thus mainly wetland, and known to be important for birds) 30 km towards Syrian border, which

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
						has management plan to prevent degradation. KSA - No key areas known at present. ETH - Quality of habitat is fine for ibises; long-established land-use system, apparently sustainable. MOR - Traditional ibis areas – land-use has stayed the same. Greenhouses still outside park.
Result 3.1. Eastern population increased 5-fold						
3.1.1. Develop project for further reinforcement of the Syrian popn. and implement it SYR, TUR	SYR – currently N/A					No extant population is confirmed in SYR. Reintroduction to be conceptualised, but at a later stage after 2025. Monitoring and observing opportunities for birds might still be carefully planned despite difficulties.
	TUR (only feasible source of birds for reintroduction) Continue with the allocation of birds from Birecik to zoos in Turkey to establish multiple breeding stocks.	MAF (General Directorate of NP & NP – Taner Hatipoglu)	N/A	High	Ongoing/Rolling	

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
	Activities 1.4.2 and 3.2.1 also relevant in this context.					
	TUR/KSA - Explore options to strengthen/establish a breeding stock in the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife in Sharjah (UAE) and/or the Centre for Wildlife Research in Taif (KSA) or other country in the region with birds from Birecik or other zoos in Turkey	MAF with NCW (KSA), Sharjah Breeding Centre, Chris Bowden	TBC	High	End of 2025	
Result 3.2. Semi-wild population in Birecik is maintained at a minimum of 150 birds						
3.2.1. Continue the conservation programme in Birecik TUR	TUR - Ongoing.	MAF	Internal funding by MAF	Essential	Ongoing/Rolling	Continue, but consider implications of population increase, which puts this site at/beyond carrying capacity: now >300 birds, probably as many as can be sustained. Planning to pass any future 'excess' beyond 250 birds to Turkish zoos (two already received) or new site. Sharjah Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife has an interest in keeping a captive flock, which would

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
						spread the risk, so surplus birds could be possibly exported to UAE. Turkish delegation suggested to visit Sharjah.
Result 3.3. A wild migratory population is established in Birecik						
3.3.1. Further releases from Birecik TUR	TUR – Procure satellite tags	MAF + Birecik Breeding Station	Resources needed for the satellite tagging (Zoos, OSME, DD)	Medium	Ongoing/Rolling	
	TUR- Continue with releases of juvenile birds from Birecik (to be colour ringed and at least some of them also satellite tagged)	MAF + Birecik Breeding Station	N/A	Medium	Ongoing/Rolling	
	TUR – monitor movements and outcome, eg. mortality causes	MAF + Birecik Breeding Station	N/A	Medium	Ongoing/Rolling	
Result 3.4. Semi-wild population established at a second site in Turkey (ideally in area compatible with 3.5)						
3.4.1. Identify potential areas and undertake feasibility studies and risk assessments TUR	TUR - Covered by Activity 1.4.2					
Result 3.5. A wild population is established away from Birecik						

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
3.5.1. Identify potential areas for reintroduction and undertake feasibility studies and risk assessments TUR	TUR - No activities envisaged (see comment)					No implementation expected in the next three years. First to advance and implement the establishment of another semi-wild population.
3.5.2. Implement reintroduction upon positive conclusions from feasibility studies and risk assessments TUR	TUR - No activities envisaged.					No implementation expected in the next three years.
Result 3.6. Sites away from Souss-Massa/Tamri are re-colonised/colonised						
3.6.1. Monitor and assess potential/feasibility of roosting/former colony sites which are visited by birds MOR, ALG	MOR – Undertake regular old/potential site visits during the breeding season as well as field visits following analysis of satellite tracking results.	ANEF GREPOM (To be elaborated at PANIC)	TBC	Medium	2023-2025	Ongoing study by GREPOM. Need to find out details. Tagging is providing information – need field checks.
	MOR - Share information/alerts between MOR and ALG about locations of tagged birds.	ANEF GREPOM (To be elaborated at PANIC)	N/A	High	2023-2025	
	ALG – network / communications with MOR	DGF, ANN	N/A	High	2023-2025	

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
	on tracked bird movements in case birds move to ALG					
3.6.2. Improve conditions in the most favourably assessed sites to attract breeders. MOR	To review – need results from 3.6.1 first			Medium	2023-2025	If potential sites identified, then plans will be developed
Result 3.7. A population is re-established in Algeria						
3.7.1. Identify potential areas for reintroduction, including possible wintering areas and undertake feasibility studies and risk assessments. ALG	Summarise bibliography Database of information on NBI in ALG	Forest administration (DGF) & Agency for Nature Conservation (ANN)	Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Culture	High	Ongoing/2023	Bibliography and database nearly completed.
	Undertake site prospection and assessments. Define 2-3 potential areas/sites for feasibility studies.	Forest administration (DGF) & Agency for Nature Conservation (ANN) With inputs from Cultural Park of Atlas Sahara (Culture Ministry)	Ministry of Environment (MEE)	High	2023	Consult AEWA reintroduction guidelines & IAGNBI release guidelines (2016 update in report). As part of site selection process, assess: 1) food availability (each of 4 seasons), 2) pesticide (locust control) risk (coordination with INPV)

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
		University (all Algeria) MEE (Ministry Env) RNOOA (NGO of observers)				
	Prepare questionnaires and undertake survey amongst local communities. Form a national working group and convene meetings with key stakeholders.	University (AlBayadh, Tiaret, Laghouat), National Plant Protection Institute (INPV)	Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (MERS)	High	2023	
3.7.2. Implement reintroduction upon positive conclusions of the feasibility studies and risk assessments ALG	Visit to Proyecto Eremita/Jerez Zoo for demonstration and training of keeper, manager(s), vet.	Forest administration (DGF)	European zoo support	High	2023-2024	First contact through formal letter to Andalusia Govt. & NBI EEP & Jerez Zoo. (2017-2018) Note requests for financial support needed (not secured so far)
	Agree exhibit and project aviary design based on: Spanish visit, EEP best practice manual & behavioural guide.	DGF Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Culture	DGF/Ministry of Agriculture	High	2023-2024	
	Aviary construction of exhibition aviary at animal parks and at hunting centres	DGF/Hunting Centre/animal parks	DGF/Ministry of Agriculture	High	2023-2024	Hunting centre: centre specialized in animal breeding
	Developing and submitting proposal for larger project	DGF	International, eg. IUCN, UNDP	High	2023	

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
	Transfer of selected birds to zoo	DGF	EEP Zoos	High	2023	After the construction of the aviaries and training
	Familiarise with husbandry techniques	DGF	EEP Zoos	High	2023-2025	
Result 4.1. Use of dispersal sites and suitability for colonisation as breeding sites is identified						
4.1.1. Assess suitability of nesting and feeding areas MOR						Overlaps with 3.6.2. Looking for sites with high biodiversity is being done.
Result 4.2. Potential for re-colonisation of former breeding sites is identified						
4.2.1. Assess suitability of nesting and feeding areas MOR, ALG	MOR - Assess suitability of newly discovered nesting sites and their surround feeding areas	ANEF DRANEF -SM GREPOM	2,000 MAD	Medium	2023-2025	Overlaps with 3.6.2. Looking for sites with high biodiversity is being done.
Result 4.3. A method of managing juveniles after split-up from migrating flock is developed						
4.3.1. Undertake trial with experimental flock ALL	Currently no activities are envisaged					Method to be developed by projects handling captive or experimental flocks. The topic is held over until such approaches are possible and needed.

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
						IAGNBI to lead any approach
Result 4.4. Population viability assessment for both Western and Eastern populations is available						
4.4.1. Run and publish population viability assessment ALL	TUR - No activities envisaged. MOR – currently no activities are envisaged					No extant E POP at present. For the W POP was not considered a priority as it is increasing.
	ALG – to summarise data to inform PVA	ANN	N/A	Low	2024	
Result 4.5. Use of stop-over and wintering sites by birds is determined						
4.5.1. Undertake field surveys ALL	E POP – N/A					E POP – No extant population is known at present.
	MOR	ANEF/GREPOM	TBC	Low		MOR – more info on wintering sites could lead to finding new sites? Good to compile information at least or consider more effort. PANIC topic.
Result 4.6. Actual sites identified through satellite tracking have been verified on the grounds, delineated and mapped						

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
4.6.1. Undertake field work and mapping (TUR), MOR	1. Establish a contact group in the Eastern population for following satellite tagged juvenile birds from Birecik	MAF (TUR), MLAE (SYR), JOR, NCW (KSA), EWCA (ETH), Nabegh Ghazal Assad, Chris Bowden	N/A	High	Mid-2023	
	2. On ad-hoc basis Turkish colleagues inform contact points in other countries in the region in case of satellite signals from other countries; work in the field undertaken as necessary	Coordination group as above	TBC	High	Annually	
	MOR – undertake as part actions linked to Result 3.6					Sightings in Mauritania.
Result 4.7. Feeding micro-habitat selection in breeding, stop-over and wintering areas understood						
4.7.1. Undertake studies ALL	TUR - No activities envisaged.					Believed to be well enough understood in TUR. For the E flyway to be possibly followed up after 2025.
	MOR - follow up in PANIC.			Low		This may become more relevant for MOR when more sites identified, after 2023. More feasible if change the intention: last word to change to ‘mapped’ rather than ‘understood’.

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
Result 4.8. Genetic make-up and levels of inbreeding/outbreeding have been determined in Syrian and Turkish populations						
4.8.1. Collect samples at any possible occasion ALL E Pop RSs	TUR – No further activities envisaged currently. DONE, but subject to reviewing published information (publication is imminent); consider whether more is needed. ALL other RSs – N/A					Difficult to get permits for export of samples, but scope to work with existing collected material. Used to collect blood for sexing, but now use feathers with local University (Harran). DNA less easily extracted than from blood samples, but good enough. Have 200 samples in Middle East Technical University (METU) – seek ways to have these analysed.
4.8.2. Undertake genetic analysis and publish results ALL E Pop RSs	E POP – no further activities envisages					Already attempted by Taner Hatipoglu with University of Trier. Publication anticipated soon.
Result 4.9. Juvenile dispersal in Moroccan population is mapped						
4.9.1. Satellite telemetry study MOR	MOR - cf. Result 2.5.		More funds required			Action planed in PANIC. Share information with ALG
4.9.2. Ground verification MOR	MOR - cf. Result 2.5.		More funds required			Action planed in PANIC. Share information with ALG

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
Result 4.10. Potential risk of power line collision and electrocution is understood						
4.10.1. Undertake assessment of risks through monitoring ALL	E POP – No activities envisaged. MOR - No activities envisaged.					Risks in TUR quite clear, no extant population in the other RSs of the E POP.
Result 4.11. Reasons for extinction of former colonies are understood and documented						
4.11.1. Design and undertake study MOR, SYR, ALG	Currently no activities envisaged					Post-2025 consider documenting the extinction of the SYR population. MOR – discussions suggest persecution and disturbance was reason for extinction in Middle Atlas. Discussed in PANIC.
Complementary Actions						
CA1. Develop NBI IWG educational & public awareness materials to adapt in each country ALL	Conceptualise the scope of the materials.	NBI IWG coordinator (Chris Bowden)	N/A	Medium	2023	Share existing example/materials between range countries for adaptation/encourage more such materials. Also share ideas/examples of festivals/articles/other evets & materials between IWG. Potential to use advice and support from Sharjah Breeding

SSAP action	Means of implementation (activities)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline	Comments
						Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife. Needed in French and Arabic. ALG can support these activities. MOR developing materials within country, and can also support.
	Produce multilingual versions plus provide electronic files for adaptation to RSs	NBI IWG coordinator (Chris Bowden)	10,000-20,000 EUR	Medium	2025	
	3. Short video suggestion (5-10 mins) available for translation/adaptation	NBI IWG coordinator (Chris Bowden)	TBC	High		Short film being developed by ALG, useful for sharing with wider public and administrations. Need advice and funding.
CA2. Maintain annual monitoring of NBI sites in ETH	Organise at least one visit to the site	EWCA (Mihret Ewnetu) & EWNHS (Mengistu Wondafrash)	1,500+ EUR per visit (to be internally provided by EWCA)	High	2023 (and/or 2024)	Single but priority action for ETH