



AEWA EURASIAN CURLEW INTERNATIONAL
WORKING GROUP



Date: 14.12.2022

Rolling Work Plan 2023-2025 for Breeding Range States

The AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group (IWG) is charged with coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Eurasian Curlew (the “ISSAP”).

This work plan was produced following discussions at the meeting of the AEWA Eurasian Curlew IWG in Papenberg, Germany, 2022.

The meeting was attended by a range of AEWA government Focal Points, government-appointed experts and observers (NGOs, academics, etc).

Please visit <https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/meeting/1st-joint-meeting-black-tailed-godwit-and-eurasian-curlew-international-working-groups> to see the meeting report and presentations from the meeting.

This work plan runs until the end of 2025, which coincides with when the AEWA ISSAP is due for revision.

Note from Coordinator – We did not undertake any prioritisation exercise. I have allocated all of the activities/ projects as “HIGH” priority as a result.

DRAFT work plan for the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group 2023-2025 (*N. a. arquata* Breeding range states)

Project/activity	Priority	Timeframe	Lead	Detailed actions	Budget	Comments
Activities delivering towards Result 1.1. "Important breeding sites for Eurasian Curlew are appropriately protected and managed"						
<p>Explore opportunities for new resource at important breeding sites. This will include seeking funding opportunities that could support new Project Officers to coordinate conservation and monitoring work.</p> <p>Principal Range States with >1% of global population and/or with existing programmes and national plans for breeding populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgium • Finland • France • Germany • Ireland • Netherlands • Norway • Sweden • United Kingdom 	HIGH	Rolling	National Focal Points and national experts for the Principal Range States listed should be the persons advocating for and supporting new resource at important breeding sites in their countries.	<p>National Focal Points and national experts to undertake an exercise to identify current/ future resource gaps at important breeding sites.</p> <p>National Focal Points and nationally-appointed experts report back at subsequent IWG meetings</p>	Unable to quantify	<p>This activity was rolled over from the previous workplan.</p> <p>The approach will vary country to country.</p>

Project/activity	Priority	Timeframe	Lead	Detailed actions	Budget	Comments
Activities delivering towards Result 1.2. "Important staging, stopover, and wintering sites for Eurasian Curlew are appropriately protected and managed"						
Maintain action, and where considered beneficial, extend appropriate protection measures, including monitoring.	HIGH	Rolling	IWG members		Unable to quantify	Using existing conservation frameworks in each country.
Note the East Atlantic Flyway's Ecological Network	HIGH	2023	IWG Coordinator and members of the IWG, when requested for data or technical advice	<p>Arrange a meeting with key IWG members and key EN contacts to understand the nature of the data requests and support likely to be needed.</p> <p>Report back to wider IWG at the meeting in September 2023 with details on what the EN requires regarding support, data, etc</p>	Unable to quantify	Do not yet know what level of support is required.
Activities delivering towards Result 2.1. "The impact of farming operations on breeding success is minimised and beneficial farming practices are supported and encouraged"						
Rural Development Programmes - Publish Guidance	HIGH	2023	<p>Patrick Lindley/ NRW</p> <p>With support from the IWG Coordinators, Nina Mikander, Curlew Action & other interested stakeholders</p>	<p>Approach all Focal Points and national experts to see which countries wish to be involved</p> <p>Consider developing alongside BTG IWG</p> <p>Organising an online stakeholder meeting to get a</p>	Possibly In-kind, though may be funding dependant	<p>Nina Mikander to act as a "bridge" between this project and similar outputs planned through LIFE Farmland Birds</p> <p>Curlew Action have a full-time member of staff inputting to future policy development in England</p>

Project/activity	Priority	Timeframe	Lead	Detailed actions	Budget	Comments
				<p>wide range of input (e.g. policy experts)</p> <p>Draft guidance and disseminate for comment</p> <p>Publish of the guidance</p>		<p>so are well placed to help guide this work</p> <p>The below activity “Understanding fine-scale habitat use” needs to feed into this guidance.</p>
Understanding Fine-scale Habitat Usage	HIGH	2023-2025	IWG Coordinator with input from Focal Points and/ or researchers in UK Sweden France Netherlands Belgium	Organise an online seminar for key researchers to disseminate what has been learned from their studies - and what they feel are future research priorities in this area	In-kind	Since the publication of the ISSAP, several studies have researched this topic. See Meeting Report for details. The IWG can play an important role in ensuring the findings and recommendations from such studies are incorporated into policy and advice through the proposed “Rural Development Programme Guidance”
Understanding Food	HIGH	2023-2025	IWG Coordinators LIFE-IP Coordinators UK Focal Point French Focal Point Netherlands Focal Point	<p>IWG Coordinator to organise an online seminar with key researchers to what has been learned from these new studies and identify knowledge gaps?</p> <p>Focal Points to be aware of research projects in their</p>	In-kind	<p>Similar to “Understanding fine-scale habitat use” in that new/ ongoing research is improving our understanding of food resources in different systems.</p> <p>See Meeting Report for current and proposed</p>

Project/activity	Priority	Timeframe	Lead	Detailed actions	Budget	Comments
				countries and resourcing needs.		projects in UK, France, Netherlands and plans through LIFE-IP.
Activities delivering towards Result 2.2. “Land management techniques that reduce levels of nest and chick predation to those associated with stable or increasing populations are promoted and investigated”						
Promotion and awareness raising	HIGH	2023-3025	FACE	Promoting and raising awareness about identified best practices in predation management, including landscape and predator management.		
Activities delivering towards Results 3.1. “Any harvest, if undertaken, is sustainable”						
French Harvesting	HIGH	ANNUAL	French Focal Point and/or National Expert	French Focal Point and/or National Expert to provide updates to IWG Coordinator regarding any key developments IWG Coordinator to update wider IWG when information received	None	
Understanding Illegal Killing	HIGH	2023-2025	No lead – volunteer sought	Continue to satellite-tag breeding birds to understand which breeding populations are susceptible to illegal killing, and to understand the scale of illegal killing. Annual updates from each range state to be provided at IWG meetings.	Unable to quantify	

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European Commission's Adaptive Harvest Management Contract	HIGH	During 2023	IWG Coordinator	<p>IWG Coordinator to liaise with this process over the coming months and update the IWG when more detail emerges.</p> <p>At next meeting, IWG to consider implications for EC and IWG's role in that process.</p>		<p>Little detail currently available on this, but EC is one of 33 species included in the tender.</p> <p>Work plan may need to be adapted based on future discussions in this area.</p>
<i>Activities delivering towards Results 4.3. "Survey, monitoring and research activities on N. a. arquata are undertaken to address knowledge gaps and improve population and demographic gaps"</i>						
Productivity Monitoring – promoting best practice	HIGH	2023-2025	All national Focal Points and species experts	National Focal Points and/ or Species Experts to raise awareness of the international breeding guidelines in their country networks	N/a	
Productivity Monitoring – synthesising data from across the breeding range	HIGH	2023-2025	IWG Coordinator Focal Points	Undertake a project which collates productivity data from recent years to provide a first ever overview assessment of EC breeding success across its breeding range, with consideration of how it relates to conservation management and national population trends	20K EUR	<p>External funding required for a project of this scale/ complexity, and level of input required.</p> <p>Useful activity to undertake ahead of the revision of the ISSAP</p>

Project/activity	Priority	Timeframe	Lead	Detailed actions	Budget	Comments
Activities delivering towards Results 4.4. "The impact of other poorly-understood threats is investigated"						
Understanding Predation	HIGH	2023-2025	IWG Coordinators & LIFE-IP Coordinators	Investigate the effectiveness of land management techniques for reducing predation rate including predation management and landscape management, in the framework of the thematic group "Breeding Grounds".	Unable to quantify	See diagram in Meeting Report for an explanation of the thematic groups. In the UK in particular, there is an urgent need to understand the factors behind high mesopredator abundance - and how it can be influenced to reduce predation pressure on EC and other ground-nesting birds.
Forestry – Understanding the Impacts and How to Mitigate	HIGH	2023-2025	UK Focal Point	Support new research projects in this area Help facilitate knowledge exchange whereby countries with low forest cover (e.g. UK) can learn from countries with high forest cover (e.g. Finland).	20K EUR	The impacts of forestry, including both commercial forestry and planting/ expanding native woodlands, need to be better understood through research. This includes better understanding on how to mitigate negative impacts. Particularly relevant topic in UK at present due to afforestation targets.

Project/activity	Priority	Timeframe	Lead	Detailed actions	Budget	Comments
Avian Influenza – Understanding the Impacts on EC.	HIGH	2023	AEWA Focal Points and IWG Coordinator	Contact IWG Coordinator if any reports emerge of significant impacts on EC IWG Coordinator to alert IWG members Focal Points report back on national situation at next IWG meeting in September 2023	In-kind	The susceptibility of EC to bird flu is not currently clear, although there have been reports of dead birds in the Wadden Sea in autumn 2022. Not discussed in great detail at Papenberg but requires action.
Satellite Tracking – synthesis of existing data and identifying future priorities	HIGH	2023-2025	Focal Points	Likely to include: Securing external funding. Appointing a project lead to - Submit data requests Organise an expert workshop Produce a report summarising what has been learned so far and with recommendations for future tracking priorities	~20K Euros?	External funding realistically required for a project of this complexity.
Understanding Egg and Embryo Failure	HIGH	2023-2025	UK Focal Point Irish Focal Point	Liaise with Sheffield University, the English Curlew Recovery Programme and the Irish Curlew Conservation Programme to see what the resourcing	tbd	

Project/activity	Priority	Timeframe	Lead	Detailed actions	Budget	Comments
			IWG Coordinator and national experts	needs are, if any, to continue this work. Discuss with experts to assess the study, report on what the findings are, and whether there is value in expanding the study		
Genetics	HIGH	2023	Swedish National Expert with support from IWG Coordinator & Experts in France, Spain, Ireland	Set up a working group to develop/ collate thinking on genetic research Produce a guide for fieldworkers to encourage the collection of genetic material	Covered as part of Swedish Gov contribution to EC research	Meetings already taken place and document has been drafted
Wind Farms, Habitat Use on Wintering Grounds, Feeding Ecology	HIGH	ONGOING	German Focal Point and/or National Expert	Develop links and regularly update the IWG on the findings of the work from the University of Keil on these topics	Partly funded by German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation	There have been papers produced on these topics in recent years. Important for the revision of the ISSAP and for future offshore wind proposals.
Over-arching activities						
Improving International Structures for Wader Conservation	HIGH	2023	IWG Coordinators for EC and BTG, LIFE-IP Coordinators	Receive feedback from stakeholders on the “Discussion on structures for wader conservation in the future” detailed in Papenberg Meeting Report	n/a	

Project/activity	Priority	Timeframe	Lead	Detailed actions	Budget	Comments
				<p>Refine groups based on feedback</p> <p>Identify resource gaps for setting up the thematic groups (i.e. supporting the costs of Chairs and Coordinators)</p> <p>Trial groups during 2023 and undertake a review at end of year?</p>		