



**1st MEETING OF THE
AEWA SLATY EGRET INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**

13-15 September 2023, Maun, Botswana

AEWA SLATY EGRET INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Goal and purpose *(as defined in the International Single Species Action Plan for the Slaty Egret)*

- 1) Downgrade the species/population from the globally threatened categories in the IUCN Red List and remove the species from AEWA Column A, Category 1;
- 2) Improve the current conservation status and knowledge base of the Slaty Egret within the next 10 years.

Role

The role of the AEWA Slaty Egret International Working Group will be to:

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

Remit

The AEWA Slaty Egret International Working Group will:

- 1) set priorities for action and implement them;
- 2) coordinate the overall international implementation;
- 3) raise funds for implementation;
- 4) assist Range States in producing national action plans;
- 5) ensure regular and thorough monitoring of the species populations;
- 6) stimulate and support scientific research in the species necessary for conservation;
- 7) promote the protection of the network of critical sites for the species;
- 8) facilitate internal and external communication and exchange of scientific, technical, legal and other required information, including with other specialists and interested parties;
- 9) assist with information in determination of the red list status and population size and trends of the species;
- 10) regularly monitor the effectiveness of implementation of the SSAP and take appropriate action according to the findings of this monitoring;
- 11) regularly report on the implementation of the SSAP to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties through the National Focal Points; and
- 12) update the international SSAP in 2022 or as required.



Membership

The AEWA Slaty Egret International Working Group will comprise (1) designated representatives of national state authorities in charge of the implementation of AEWA and (2) representatives of national expert and conservation organisations as invited to the national delegations by the state authorities from all major Range States.

Countries forming the working group: Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The Chair of the AEWA Slaty Egret International Working Group may invite and admit international expert and conservation organisations as well as individual experts as observers to the Working Group, as necessary.

Officers

A Chair of the AEWA Slaty Egret International Working Group will be elected amongst its members.

A part- or full-time Coordinator post will be provided by the BirdLife Botswana. The Coordinator will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Working Group and shall act in close cooperation with the Chair and the AEWA Secretariat.

The designated representatives of national state authorities will act as National Focal Points for the SSAP and will be the main contact persons for the Chair and the Coordinator.

Meetings

The AEWA Slaty Egret International Working Group should aim to hold face-to-face meetings once every three years. Other face-to-face meetings may be arranged as circumstances allow (e.g. back-to-back meetings with other international fora). Between meetings, business will be conducted electronically via Working Group's website and list server.

Reporting

A thorough report on the implementation of the SSAP will be produced according to a standard format with contributions from all Range States and submitted for inclusion into the general International Review on the Stage of Preparation and Implementation of Single Species Action Plans to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties. Reports shall also be prepared by each Range State to a format agreed by the Working Group and presented at each face-to-face meeting of the Working Group. Other reports will be produced as required by the AEWA Technical Committee or the AEWA Secretariat.

Financing

The operations of the AEWA Slaty Egret International Working Group, including the coordinator post, are to be financed primarily by its members and, if applicable, by its observers; the AEWA Secretariat cannot commit regular financial support and may only provide such if possible. Funding for SSAP activities of the Working Group or its members is to be sought from various sources.