



15th MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
09–11 April 2019, Bonn, Germany

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTION PLANS FOR PRIORITY PRINCIPAL BIRD HABITATS IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN FLYWAYS

1. Project title

Assessment of the status of and the development of action plans for priority principal bird habitats in the African-Eurasian Flyways.

2. Background

AEWA context

Under para. 3.2.3 of the Action Plan of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA AP) Parties “...shall endeavor to avoid degradation and loss of habitats that support populations...”. Further under para. 3.2.4 Parties “...shall endeavor to develop strategies, according to an ecosystem approach, for the conservation of the habitats of all populations...including that habitats of those populations that are dispersed”.

The AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 adopted by the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) in December 2018 introduces a new priority area of work outlined in its Objective 4: “To ensure there is sufficient quantity and quality of habitat in the wider environment¹ for achieving and maintaining favourable conservation status for migratory waterbird populations”.

Target 4.1 of the Strategic Plan foresees that “Priorities for habitat conservation and management in the wider environment (as defined at the Objective level) are identified at Agreement level and corresponding actions are being implemented in at least half of Contracting Parties”.

Action (a) to this target foresees that an Agreement-level **assessment of the status of principal waterbird habitats in the wider environment** is conducted by the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP8) in 2021 drawing on existing studies wherever possible.

Based on the assessment produced, action (b) to this target also foresees the development of an action plan by MOP8. This action plan shall identify priorities, opportunities and a set of recommended actions taking into account regional and sub-regional differences in key habitat types and threats/drivers.

¹ ‘Wider environment’ encompasses land, coastal and marine areas that constitute important habitats for waterbirds beyond the boundaries of recognized sites and/or formally designated protected areas. These may include, for example, many farmed landscapes and other areas of land and water with multiple uses.

Raptors MOU context

Article 7(b) of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) states that the Signatories will endeavour to “*coordinate their efforts to ensure that a network of suitable habitats is maintained or, where appropriate, established inter alia where such habitats extend over the territory of more than one Signatory*”.

The Action Plan (Annex 3) to the MOU lists priorities such as 4(c) “*Conserving bird of prey habitats by encouraging an Ecosystem Approach to sustainable development and sectoral land use practices...*” and 4(e) “*Taking into account the needs of bird of prey conservation in sectors and related policies such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, industries, tourism, energy, chemicals and pesticides*”, both of which have strong habitat conservation aspect.

Further, Table 2 to the Action Plan (Activities to be done under paragraph 5 of the Action Plan) contains a set of sub-activities under Activity 3: Habitat conservation and sustainable management which aim at securing appropriate quantity and quality of habitats for birds of prey.

AEMLAP context

The African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) under the Convention on Migratory Species strongly emphasises the habitat conservation approach. The Action Plan’s first theme introduces priority topics in relation to habitat conservation such as agriculture, timber and non-timber forest production, water management, energy, revegetation and reducing desertification as well as integrated land-use management.

CAF AP context

The Central Asian Flyway Action Plan (CAFAP) for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats under the Convention on Migratory Species has been developed following closely the AEWA AP as a model. Hence the mandates with respect to habitat conservation between AEWA and CAFAP are very similar. Under para. 3.2.2 Range States “*...shall endeavour to avoid degradation and loss of habitats that support populations...*”.

3. Duties of the contractor

The contractor shall carry out a review which covers all relevant issues, but in particular:

- i. Identification of principal bird habitats in the geographic areas covered by AEWA, the Raptors MOU, AEMLAP and CAFAP (applying a system compatible with the IUCN Red List Habitat Classification and other relevant systems (e.g. Ramsar Convention);
- ii. Assessment of the status of the principal bird habitats in the geographic area described above, including past and predicted future changes in extent and quality;
- iii. Identification of priority principal bird habitats at the level of each instrument, i.e. AEWA, Raptors MOU, AEMLAP and CAFAP, and for each of the broad species groups, i.e. waterbirds, landbirds, and birds of prey;
- iv. Identification of direct and indirect threats to priority principal bird habitats;
- v. Identification of policy and management opportunities to maintain or enhance the status of priority principal bird habitats including synergies with other frameworks;
- vi. Development of action plans for priority principal bird habitats based on the above, to be submitted to the governing bodies of AEWA, the Raptors MOU, AEMLAP and CAFAP.

4. Duration of the project (tentative dates)

Draft deliverables to be submitted to the Secretariats of AEWA, the Raptors MOU, AEMLAP and CAFAP as follows:

- on point (i) by February 2020;
- on points (ii) - (iii) by June 2020;
- on points (ii) - (iii) by January 2021.

Following the review of the drafts by the technical subsidiary bodies of AEWA, the Raptors MOU, AEMLAP and CAFAP, the contractor will be expected to incorporate the feedback received and produce and submit improved versions as required. Final products to be submitted to the Secretariats by 15 April 2021.

5. Submission of tenders (tentative dates)

Interested candidates are invited to submit tenders to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to jeannine.dicken@unep-awea.org by 17 May 2019. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat will administer the tendering procedure and the contractual arrangements for the project, including on behalf of the Raptors MOU, AEMLAP and CAFAP.

Tenders should contain a detailed description of the approach to delivering all items described under point 3 above (Duties of the contractor) and budget. For further details when compiling tenders please refer to the attached Concept for an assessment of the status of the principal bird habitats in the African-Eurasian flyways.

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat retains the right to cancel this project in case sufficient funding is not available.