



**5<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

*14 – 18 May 2012, La Rochelle, France*

*“Migratory waterbirds and people - sharing wetlands”*

---

**SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATE OF SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN AND SPECIES  
MANAGEMENT PLAN PRODUCTION AND COORDINATION**

*Compiled by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat*

This brief paper provides an update on the progress of production and coordination of the implementation of AEWA Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs).

Table 1 below contains a list of 21 SSAPs - the 15 SSAPs previously adopted by the MOP (between 2002 and 2008), the four new draft SSAPs and one Species Management Plan (SMP) to be submitted to MOP5 (May 2012), as well as one plan for which funding has been secured, but which will not be available until after MOP5.

For the 15 previously adopted SSAPs, coordination mechanisms (AEWA International Species Working Groups (ISWG)) have been provided for seven of them, as decided by TC9 in 2009. Coordinating organizations have been identified and Memoranda of Cooperation concluded. For another SSAP, a coordinator has been recruited, but the Working Group is yet to be convened. For the Red-breasted Goose SSAP, which used to be a non-AEWA SSAP, an expert working group was operating with the support of several organizations, including UNEP/AEWA. This group was transformed into an AEWA ISWG and a coordinator was also recruited.

The nine coordination mechanisms are at various stages of development and operation. Most advanced is the Lesser White-fronted Goose SSAP mechanism for which there is regular and sufficient funding from some of the range states, particularly Norway; a full-time paid coordinator was recruited and is based at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. The shortfalls of the other coordination mechanisms are usually associated with insufficient funding, out-posted, part-time coordinators and the need of additional supervision and guidance by the Secretariat.

For two SSAPs, expert coordination groups have been established, where the AEWA Secretariat has not been the driving force (Eurosites for the Eurasian Spoonbill and the Irish Brent Goose Research Group for the Light-bellied Brent Goose). These two cases present a useful approach and, in future, stakeholders will be encouraged to take the initiative and put in place coordination mechanisms where the involvement of the AEWA Secretariat and the establishment of AEWA ISWG are not considered to be a priority.

For two of the newly developed plans, coordination mechanisms will be convened upon their endorsement – an AEWA ISWG for the Pink-footed Goose Species Management Plan and an expert working group under Eurosites and/or WWT for the Bewick’s Swan SSAP.

[Resolution 4.4](#)<sup>1</sup>, based on the recommendations of [document AEWA/MOP 4.10, page 99](#)<sup>2</sup>, instructed the Secretariat to undertake a revision of three non-AEWA SSAPs. This revision was completed for the Red-breasted Goose SSAP. At its meeting in February 2009, the Steering Group of the Slender-billed Curlew Working Group (under the CMS SbC MoU) decided not to embark on a revision of the SbC SSAP unless the species was found. Instead, an intensive search was launched, which unfortunately did not lead to any proven observations of the species. No action has been taken on revising the Marbled Teal SSAP.

Document AEWA/MOP 4.10 also recommended a revision of the Dalmatian Pelican and the Audouin's Gull SSAPs, but the MOP did not instruct the Secretariat to take any action with regard to these revisions.

Resolution 4.4 also endorsed a priority list for elaboration of new SSAPs, as presented in document AEWA/MOP 4.10; pages 97-98 (see Table 2 below). Of the 54 priority species/populations a draft SSAP for the Slaty Egret (no. 2) was completed, while for the Shoebill SSAP (no. 3) funding was secured and the planning process will be launched soon.

The African Crane Conservation Programme (an ICF/EWT partnership) has made a commitment to work with the Secretariat on raising funds and compiling SSAPs for three species/populations of cranes in Africa (Wattled Crane *Grus carunculatus* – no. 4, Blue Crane *Grus paradisea* – no. 10, and Grey Crowned Crane – *Balearica regulorum regulorum* – no. 51).

For another nine African species/populations on the priority list (Bank Cormorant *Phalacrocorax neglectus* – no. 1, African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus* – no. 6, Cape Gannet *Sula capensis* – no. 9, Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii dougallii* – no. 31, Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia caspia* – no. 35, Antarctic Tern *Sterna vittata vittata* – no. 39, Antarctic Tern *Sterna vittata tristanensis* – no. 40, Crowned Cormorant *Phalacrocorax coronatus* – no. 52 and Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii enigma* – no. 53) a Multi-species Action Planning process for Southern African coastal birds was launched some years ago, but has, to date, not been completed and cannot be finalized due to the lack of funds. This will be prioritized as an activity for 2012-2015.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4\\_docs/final\\_res\\_pdf/res4\\_4\\_ssap\\_re-establishments\\_final.pdf](http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/final_res_pdf/res4_4_ssap_re-establishments_final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4\\_docs/meeting\\_docs\\_pdf/mop4\\_10\\_ssap\\_review.pdf](http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/meeting_docs_pdf/mop4_10_ssap_review.pdf)

**Table 1.** List of AEWA SSAPs and SMP which have been adopted by MOP or are under development

**Highlighted in green** are the SSAPs for which AEWA international coordination mechanisms have been put in place

**Highlighted in blue** are the SSAPs for which AEWA or other international coordination mechanisms will be established in foreseeable future

**Highlighted in pink** are the SSAPs for which other international coordination mechanisms have been established

Year of MOP adoption	Species/population	Population size and trend (as per CSR5)	AEWA Species Working Group	Other Working Group	Coordinator	Meetings	Website	List server
SSAPs previously adopted by MOP (15)								
2002	Great Snipe ( <i>Gallinago media</i> )	<b>Scandinavia/W Africa</b> – 18,000-51,000 (stable); <b>W Siberia &amp; NE Europe/SE Africa</b> – 100,000-1,000,000 (declining)	None	None	None	None	None	None
2002	Black-winged Pratincole ( <i>Glareola nordmanni</i> )	152,000-190,000 (declining)	None	None	None	None	None	None
2002 (2012 – revision)	Sociable Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus gregarius</i> )	<b>SE Europe &amp; W Asia / NE Africa</b> - 3,200-17,000 (declining); <b>Central Asian Republics / NW India</b> – 200 (declining)	Convened	N/A	RSPB (formerly ACBK, BirdLife affiliate in Kazakhstan)	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting (March 2011)	Yes (inactive, to be revamped)	None
2005	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) – East Canadian High Arctic population	40,000 (increasing)	None	Irish Brent Goose Research Group – largely coordinates work internationally	As arranged by the IBGRG	As arranged by the IBGRG	As arranged by the IBGRG	As arranged by the IBGRG

Year of MOP adoption	Species/population	Population size and trend (as per CSR5)	AEWA Species Working Group	Other Working Group	Coordinator	Meetings	Website	List server
2005	Northern Bald Ibis ( <i>Geronticus eremita</i> )	Morocco - 227 (declining); SW Asia - 7 (declining)	Convened	N/A	BirdLife International (through RSPB, BirdLife Middle East and SEO/BirdLife Spain)	None (1 <sup>st</sup> meeting planned for early 2012)	None	None
2005	Corncrake ( <i>Crex crex</i> )	> 1,000,000 (declining)	None	None	None	None	None	None
2005	White-headed Duck ( <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> )	W Med - 2,500 (increasing); Algeria & Tunisia - 400-600 (stable); E Med, Turkey and SW Asia - 5,000-10,000 (declining)	To be convened	None	WWT	None	None	None
2005	Ferruginous Duck ( <i>Aythya nyroca</i> )	W Med/N & W Africa - 2,400-2,600 (declining); E Europe/E Mid & Sahelian Africa - 50,000 (increasing); W Asian/SW Asia & NE Africa - 25,000-100,000 (declining)	None	None	None	None	None	None
2008	Lesser Flamingo ( <i>Phoeniconaias minor</i> )	W Africa - 15,000-25,000 (stable); E Africa - 1.5-2.5	Convened	N/A	BirdLife Africa	None	None	Yes

Year of MOP adoption	Species/population	Population size and trend (as per CSR5)	AEWA Species Working Group	Other Working Group	Coordinator	Meetings	Website	List server
		million (declining); <b>S Africa</b> – 55,000-65,000 stable)						
2008	Madagascar Pond-heron ( <i>Ardeola idae</i> )	2,000-6,000 (declining)	Convened	N/A	BirdLife Africa	None	None	Yes
2008	White-winged Flufftail ( <i>Sarothrura ayresi</i> )	<b>Ethiopia</b> – 450-650 (declining); <b>S Africa</b> – 235 (declining)	Convened	N/A	BirdLife Africa	None	None	Yes
2008	Maccoa Duck ( <i>Oxyura maccoa</i> )	<b>E Africa</b> – 1,500 (declining); <b>S Africa</b> – 7,000-8,250 (increasing)	None	None	None	None	None	None
2008	Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa l. limosa</i> and <i>islandica</i> )	<b>W Europe / NW &amp; W Africa</b> – 160,000-180,000 (declining); <b>E Europe / C &amp; E Africa</b> – 90,000-165,000 (declining); <b>W-C Asia / SW Asia &amp; E Africa</b> – 25,000-100,000 (unknown); <b>Iceland / W Europe</b> – 50,000-75,000 (increasing)	Convened	N/A	Government Service for Land and Water Management (DLG) of the Netherlands	None	None	None
2008	Eurasian Spoonbill ( <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> – <i>leucorodia</i> , <i>archeri</i> , <i>balsaci</i> & <i>major</i> )	<b>W Europe /W Mediterranean &amp; W Africa</b> – 11,300 (increasing); <b>C &amp; SE Europe/ Mediterranean &amp; Tropical Africa</b> –	None	Eurosite Spoonbill Working Group	As arranged by the ESWG	As arranged by the ESWG	As arranged by the ESWG	As arranged by the ESWG

Year of MOP adoption	Species/population	Population size and trend (as per CSR5)	AEWA Species Working Group	Other Working Group	Coordinator	Meetings	Website	List server
		11,670 (declining); <b>Red Sea &amp; Somalia</b> – 1,500-2,250 (declining); <b>Coastal W Africa (Mauritania)</b> – 6,000-7,000 (stable); <b>W Asia / SW &amp; S Asia</b> – 23,000 (unknown)						
2008 (revision of the non-AEWA SSAP)	Lesser White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser erythropus</i> ) – Western Palearctic population	<b>N Europe &amp; W Sib / B Sea &amp; Caspian</b> – 10,000-21,000 (stable?); <b>Fennoscandia</b> – 60-80 (declining)	Convened	N/A	UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting (November 2010) 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting (planned for end of 2012)	To be launched	To be launched
Draft SSAPs and SMP to be submitted to MOP5 (5)								
(2012)	Slaty Egret ( <i>Egretta vinaceigula</i> )	3,000-5,000 (declining)	None	None	None	None	None	None
(2012)	Bewick's Swan ( <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> ) – W Siberian & NE/NW European population	21,500 (declining)	None	To be convened under Eurosite and/or WWT	None	None	None	None
(2012)	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> )	23,200 (declining)	None	None	None	None	None	None
(2012 –	Red-breasted Goose	44,000 (declining)	Convened	N/A	WWT	None	Yes	Yes

Year of MOP adoption	Species/population	Population size and trend (as per CSR5)	AEWA Species Working Group	Other Working Group	Coordinator	Meetings	Website	List server
revision of the non-AEWA SSAP)	<i>(Branta ruficollis)</i>				(through BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria)	(1 <sup>st</sup> meeting planned for mid-2012)	(outdated, to be revamped)	
(2012)	Pink-footed Goose ( <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ) – Svalbard population (Species Management Plan)	63,000 (increasing)	To be convened before MOP5	N/A	To be formalised with Aarhus University, Denmark	None (1 <sup>st</sup> meeting planned for mid-2012)	None	None
SSAPs in preparation - funding secured (1)								
N/A	Shoebill ( <i>Balaeniceps rex</i> )	5,000-8,000 (declining)	None	None	None	None	None	None

**Table 2.** Priority list for development of new SSAPs (as in document AEWA/MOP 4.10, pages 97-98 and endorsed by Resolution 4.4). Highlighted in orange are the species/population for which SSAPs have been developed or funding for development is secured by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. Highlighted in blue are the species/populations for which compilers have been identified and SSAP or Multi-Species Action Planning processes will commence in 2012-2015 if sufficient funding becomes available.

Rank	Species and subspecies	Population
1	Bank Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>	Coastal Southwest Africa
2	Slaty Egret <i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>	Southcentral Africa
3	Shoebill <i>Balaeniceps rex</i>	Central Tropical Africa
4	Wattled Crane <i>Grus carunculatus</i>	Central & Southern Africa
5	Madagascar Pratincole <i>Glareola ocularis</i>	Madagascar/East Africa
6	African Penguin <i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	Southern Africa
7	Socotra Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>	Arabian Coast
8		Gulf of Aden, Socotra, Arabian Sea
9	Cape Gannet <i>Sula (Morus) capensis</i>	Southern Africa
10	Blue Crane <i>Grus paradisea</i>	Extreme Southern Africa
11	Demoiselle Crane <i>Grus virgo</i>	Turkey (bre)
12	Sacred Ibis <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus aethiopicus</i>	Iraq & Iran
13	White-backed Duck <i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i>	West Africa
14	Cape Teal <i>Anas capensis</i>	Lake Chad basin <sup>2</sup>
15	Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i>	Turkey & Georgia (bre)
16	Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus infuscatus</i>	Eastern Africa (Ethiopia to N Zambia)
17	Yellow-billed Stork <i>Mycteria ibis</i>	Madagascar
18	Black-winged Lapwing <i>Vanellus melanopterus minor</i>	Southern Africa
19	Ruddy Shelduck <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Northwest Africa
20	Hottentot Teal <i>Anas hottentota</i>	Lake Chad Basin
21	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>	Baltic/SW Europe & NW Africa
22	Red-knobbed Coot <i>Fulica cristata</i>	Madagascar
23	Great Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris capensis</i>	Southern Africa
24	African Pygmy-goose <i>Nettapus auritus</i>	West Africa
25	Streaky-breasted Flufftail <i>Sarothrura boehmi</i>	Central Africa
26	Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris</i>	Southwest Asia/Eastern Africa
27	Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	West Africa
28	White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia ciconia</i>	Southern Africa
29	Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii bangsi</i>	North Arabian Sea (Oman)
30	Demoiselle Crane <i>Grus virgo</i>	Black Sea (Ukraine)/Northeast Africa
31	Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>	Southern Africa
32	Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	Northern Siberia/Caspian
33	Velvet Scoter <i>Melanitta fusca fusca</i>	Black Sea & Caspian
34	Great Crested Tern <i>Sterna bergii thalassina</i>	Eastern Africa & Seychelles
35	Caspian Tern <i>Sterna caspia caspia</i>	Southern Africa (bre)
36	Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons guineae</i>	West Africa (bre)
37	Black Stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Southern Africa
38	African Spoonbill <i>Platalea alba</i>	Madagascar
39	Antarctic Tern <i>Sterna vittata vittata</i>	P.Edward, Marion, Crozet & Kerguelen/South Africa
40	Antarctic Tern <i>Sterna vittata tristanensis</i>	Tristan da Cunha & Gough/South Africa
41	Great Knot <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Eastern Siberia/SW Asia & W Southern Asia
42	Lesser Crested Tern <i>Sterna bengalensis emigrata</i>	S Mediterranean/NW & West Africa coasts



<b>Rank</b>	<b>Species and subspecies</b>	<b>Population</b>
43	Chestnut-banded Plover <i>Charadrius pallidus venustus</i>	Eastern Africa
44	Great Northern Diver <i>Gavia immer</i>	Europe (win)
45	White-billed Diver <i>Gavia adamsii</i>	Northern Europe (win)
46	Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator serrator</i>	Western Siberia/Southwest & Central Asia
47	Greater Sandplover <i>Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus</i>	Turkey & SW Asia/E. Mediterranean & Red Sea
48	Slavonian Grebe <i>Podiceps auritus auritus</i>	Northwest Europe (largebilled)
49	Baillon's Crak <i>Porzana pusilla intermedia</i>	Europe (bre)
50	Cape Teal <i>Anas capensis</i>	Eastern Africa (Rift Valley)
51	Grey Crowned Crane <i>Balearica regulorum regulorum</i>	Southern Africa (N to Angola & S Zimbabwe)
52	Crowned Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>	Coastal Southwest Africa
53	Great Crested Tern <i>Sterna bergii enigma</i>	Madagascar & Mozambique/Southern Africa
54	Goosander <i>Mergus merganser merganser</i>	Northeast Europe/Black Sea