**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 (Eurosite 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 Eurosite and/or WWT for the Bewick’s Swan SSAP.

[Resolution 4.4](http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/final_res_pdf/res4_4_ssap_re-establishments_final.pdf)[[1]](#footnote-1), based on the recommendations of [document AEWA/MOP 4.10, page 99](http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/meeting_docs_pdf/mop4_10_ssap_review.pdf)[[2]](#footnote-2), 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.

**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 and 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 (*Gallinago media*) | **Scandinavia/W Africa** – 18,000-51,000 (stable); **W Siberia & NE Europe/SE Africa** – 100,000-1,000,000 (declining) | None | None | None | None | None | None |
| 2002 | Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*) | 152,000-190,000 (declining) | None | None | None | None | None | None |
| 2002 (2012 – revision) | Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) | **SE Europe & W Asia / NE Africa** - 3,200-17,000 (declining); **Central Asian Republics / NW India** – 200 (declining) | Convened | N/A | RSPB (formerly ACBK, BirdLife affiliate in Kazakhstan) | 1st meeting (March 2011) | Yes (inactive, to be revamped) | None |
| 2005 | Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) – 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 |
| 2005 | Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) | **Morocco** - 227 (declining); **SW Asia** – 7 (declining) | Convened | N/A | BirdLife International (through RSPB, BirdLife Middle East and SEO/BirdLife Spain) | None (1st meeting planned for early 2012) | None | None |
| 2005 | Corncrake (*Crex crex*) | > 1,000,000 (declining) | None | None | None | None | None | None |
| 2005 | White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) | **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 (*Aythya nyroca*) | **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 (*Phoeniconaias minor*) | **W Africa** – 15,000-25,000 (stable); **E Africa** – 1.5-2.5 million (declining); **S Africa** – 55,000-65,000 stable) | Convened | N/A | BirdLife Africa | None | None | Yes |
| 2008 | Madagascar Pond-heron (*Ardeola idae*) | 2,000-6,000 (declining) | Convened | N/A | BirdLife Africa | None | None | Yes |
| 2008 | White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresi*) | **Ethiopia** – 450-650 (declining); **S Africa** – 235 (declining) | Convened | N/A | BirdLife Africa | None | None | Yes |
| 2008 | Maccoa Duck (*Oxyura maccoa*) | **E Africa** – 1,500 (declining); **S Africa** – 7,000-8,250 (increasing) | None | None | None | None | None | None |
| 2008 | Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa l. limosa* and *islandica*) | **W Europe / NW & W Africa** – 160,000-180,000 (declining); **E Europe / C & E Africa** – 90,000-165,000 (declining); **W-C Asia / SW Asia & E Africa** – 25,000-100,000 (unknown); **Iceland / W Europe** – 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 (*Platalea leucorodia – leucorodia, archeri, balsaci & major*) | **W Europe /W Mediterranean & W Africa** – 11,300 (increasing); **C & SE Europe/ Mediterranean & Tropical Africa** – 11,670 (declining); **Red Sea & Somalia** – 1,500-2,250 (declining); **Coastal W Africa (Mauritania)** – 6,000-7,000 (stable); **W Asia / SW & S Asia** – 23,000 (unknown) | 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 |
| 2008 (revision of the non-AEWA SSAP) | Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) – Western Palearctic population | **N Europe & W Sib / B Sea & Caspian** – 10,000-21,000 (stable?); **Fennoscandia** – 60-80 (declining) | Convened | N/A | UNEP/AEWA Secretariat | 1st meeting (November 2010)2nd 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 (*Egretta vinaceigula*) | 3,000-5,000 (declining) | None | None | None | None | None | None |
| (2012) | Bewick’s Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) – 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 (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) | 23,200 (declining) | None | None | None | None | None | None |
| (2012 – revision of the non-AEWA SSAP) | Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) | 44,000 (declining) | Convened | N/A | WWT (through BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria) | None (1st meeting planned for mid-2012) | Yes (outdated, to be revamped) | Yes |
| (2012) | Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) – Svalbard population (Species Management Plan) | 63,000 (increasing) | To be convened before MOP5 | N/A | To be formalised with Aarhus University, Denmark | None (1st meeting planned for mid-2012) | None | None |
| SSAPs in preparation - funding secured (1) |
| N/A | Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*) | 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. 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 *Phalacrocorax neglectus* | Coastal Southwest Africa |
| 2 | Slaty Egret *Egretta vinaceigula* | Southcentral Africa |
| 3 | Shoebill *Balaeniceps rex* | Central Tropical Africa |
| 4 | Wattled Crane *Grus carunculatus* | Central & Southern Africa |
| 5 | Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis* | Madagascar/East Africa |
| 6 | African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus*  | Southern Africa |
| 7 | Socotra Cormorant *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis* | Arabian Coast |
| 8 | Gulf of Aden, Socotra, Arabian Sea |
| 9 | Cape Gannet *Sula (Morus) capensis* | Southern Africa |
| 10 | Blue Crane *Grus paradisea* | Extreme Southern Africa |
| 11 | Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo* | Turkey (bre) |
| 12 | Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus aethiopicus* | Iraq & Iran |
| 13 | White-backed Duck  *Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus* | West Africa |
| 14 | Cape Teal *Anas capensis* | Lake Chad basin2 |
| 15 | Common Crane *Grus grus* | Turkey & Georgia (bre) |
| 16 | Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus infuscatus* | Eastern Africa (Ethiopia to N Zambia) |
| 17 | Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* | Madagascar |
| 18 | Black-winged Lapwing *Vanellus melanopterus minor* | Southern Africa |
| 19 | Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* | Northwest Africa |
| 20 | Hottentot Teal A*nas hottentota* | Lake Chad Basin |
| 21 | Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii* | Baltic/SW Europe & NW Africa |
| 22 | Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* | Madagascar |
| 23 | Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris capensis* | Southern Africa |
| 24 | African Pygmy-goose *Nettapus auritus* | West Africa |
| 25 | Streaky-breasted Flufftail *Sarothrura boehmi* | Central Africa |
| 26 | Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris* | Southwest Asia/Eastern Africa |
| 27 | Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* | West Africa |
| 28 | White Stork *Ciconia ciconia ciconia* | Southern Africa |
| 29 | Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii bangsi* | North Arabian Sea (Oman) |
| 30 | Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo* | Black Sea (Ukraine)/Northeast Africa |
| 31 | Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii dougallii* | Southern Africa |
| 32 | Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* | Northern Siberia/Caspian |
| 33 | Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca fusca* | Black Sea & Caspian |
| 34 | Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii thalassina* | Eastern Africa & Seychelles |
| 35 | Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia caspia* | Southern Africa (bre) |
| 36 | Little Tern *Sterna albifrons guineae* | West Africa (bre) |
| 37 | Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* | Southern Africa |
| 38 | African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* | Madagascar |
| 39 | Antarctic Tern *Sterna vittata vittata* | P.Edward, Marion, Crozet & Kerguelen/South Africa |
| 40 | Antarctic Tern *Sterna vittata tristanensis* | Tristan da Cunha & Gough/South Africa |
| 41 | Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* | Eastern Siberia/SW Asia & W Southern Asia |
| 42 | Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis emigrata* | S Mediterranean/NW & West Africa coasts |
| 43 | Chestnut-banded Plover *Charadrius pallidus venustus* | Eastern Africa |
| 44 | Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* | Europe (win) |
| 45 | White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* | Northern Europe (win) |
| 46 | Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator serrator* | Western Siberia/Southwest & Central Asia |
| 47 | Greater Sandplover*Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus* | Turkey & SW Asia/E. Mediterranean & Red Sea |
| 48 | Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus auritus* | Northwest Europe (largebilled) |
| 49 | Baillon's Crak *Porzana pusilla intermedia* | Europe (bre) |
| 50 | Cape Teal *Anas capensis* | Eastern Africa (Rift Valley) |
| 51 | Grey Crowned Crane*Balearica regulorum regulorum* | Southern Africa (N to Angola & S Zimbabwe) |
| 52 | Crowned Cormorant *Phalacrocorax coronatus* | Coastal Southwest Africa |
| 53 | Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii enigma* | Madagascar & Mozambique/Southern Africa |
| 54 | Goosander *Mergus merganser merganser* | Northeast Europe/Black Sea |

1. http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4\_docs/final\_res\_pdf/res4\_4\_ssap\_re-establishments\_final.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4\_docs/meeting\_docs\_pdf/mop4\_10\_ssap\_review.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)