



11th MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
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**REVISION OF THE PRIORITY LIST ADOPTED BY MOP4 OF WATERBIRD
POPULATIONS FOR WHICH TO DEVELOP SSAPS**

Prepared by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

Background

In 2008 the first edition of the AEWA [Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans](#) (SSAPs) was compiled and submitted to the 4th Session of the Meeting of the Parties. This review, amongst other things, suggested a priority list of populations for which SSAPs should be elaborated; this priority list was endorsed by MOP4 through [Resolution 4.4](#). The approved list has been used by the Secretariat and other stakeholders as guidance for the development of new SSAPs between MOP4 and MOP5 in 2012.

At MOP5 the Secretariat presented a summary of the current state of SSAP and Species Management Plan production and coordination (see document [AEWA/MOP 5.24](#)). MOP5 also adopted amendments to the AEWA Table 1 on the basis of updated population size and trend estimates presented in the 5th edition of the AEWA [Conservation Status Report \(CSR5\)](#). Paragraph 2.2.1 of the AEWA Action Plan sets the priority range of populations for species action planning (AEWA Table 1: Column A, category 1 and Column A, categories 2 and 3 asterisk-marked), therefore with the amendments to Table 1, it will be necessary to revise the priority list endorsed by MOP4. Following this necessity, MOP5 requested the Technical Committee through Resolution 5.8 to revise the priority list for SSAPs at its first meeting after each Meeting of the Parties in the light of approved changes to Table 1.

MOP5 added a new category, category 4, to Column A of AEWA Table 1, which covers populations belonging to species listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List, but which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of Category 1, 2 or 3 of Column A. The amended paragraph 2.1.1 of the AEWA Action Plan requires the development of an international species action plan as a prerequisite for the continuation of hunting (on a sustainable use basis) for any population listed in category 4.

Revised Priority List

The proposed revised list has been compiled by the Secretariat following the approach and criteria used in the *Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of SSAPs* produced for MOP4 in 2008 while taking into account the developments since MOP4, such as the addition of a new category 4 to Column A, and adding further considerations for fine-tuning of the ranking.

In the first place, all populations in categories 1 and 4 of Column A and populations on Column A marked with an asterisk as well as remaining populations belonging to globally threatened species, were extracted from the MOP5-adopted AEWA Table 1. In principle all globally threatened species are listed in category 1, but we applied the latest IUCN Red List released two weeks after MOP5 in which some AEWA species have been uplisted to globally threatened categories, therefore there are some discrepancies. From this initial list all populations/species for which AEWA SSAPs are adopted, or for which these are currently being developed, were excluded, as well as those for which Memoranda of Understanding under the Convention on Migratory Species (accompanied by Action Plans), were concluded. These species/populations are listed in table 1 to this document.

Seven populations of seven different species are the subject of species action plans under instruments other than AEWA, but these plans do not cover the entire population flyways and/or are outdated (older than 10 years) and to our knowledge are not to be updated/revised by the framework under which they have been previously developed and implemented. These seven populations were kept in the list to which to apply ranking criteria. In table 2 to this document they are marked with three red exclamation marks and further information is provided in the related footnotes.

The resulting list of 88 populations belonging to 63 species has been ranked by applying the following three criteria consecutively:

- 1) **IUCN Red List status** – in descending order: Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near-threatened (NT) and Least Concern (LC);
- 2) **Population size estimate** – in descending order from lowest to highest estimate. The estimates have been taken from CSR5. Where the population size estimate has been given by a range (e.g. 1-10,000) for the ranking the average (i.e. 5,000) has been used. Populations with exact size estimates (e.g. 5,000) have been ranked higher than populations whose size estimates are presented by a range and the average is equal to the size of the populations with exact estimate (e.g. 1-10,000). When two or more populations have had equal population estimates those belonging to less numerous species within the Agreement area have been ranked higher.
- 3) **Population trend estimate** – in descending order: Declining (DEC), Fluctuating (FLU), Unknown (UNK), Stable (STA) and Increasing (INC). The estimates have been taken from CSR5.

The revised priority list of populations ranked according to the three criteria described above is presented in table 2 of this document.

Action Requested from the Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is invited to review the proposed revised priority list of waterbird populations for which to develop SSAPs (see the attached table 2), make adjustments, as necessary, and approve it as guidance for development of SSAPs until MOP6 in 2015.

TABLE 1

Populations/species qualifying for priority action planning, but for which there are AEWAs SSAPs already adopted or currently being developed, as well as those for which there are Memoranda of Understanding accompanied by Action Plans, concluded under the Convention on Migratory Species (colour code: red – CR, pink – EN, orange – VU, yellow – NT, white – LC).

Populations	Col A	Red List	SSAP
<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>		VU	AEWA 2012
- South-central Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Ardeola idae</i>		EN	AEWA & CMS 2008
- Madagascar & Aldabra/Central & Eastern Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Balaeniceps rex</i>		VU	AEWA under preparation
- Central Tropical Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Geronticus eremita</i>		CR	AEWA 2005
- Morocco	1a 1b 1c		
- South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Platalea leucorodia archeri</i>		LC	AEWA 2008
- Red Sea & Somalia	1c		
<i>Platalea leucorodia balsaci</i>		LC	AEWA 2008
- Coastal West Africa (Mauritania)	1c		
<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>		NT	AEWA & CMS 2008
- West Africa	2		
- Eastern Africa	4		
- Southern Africa (to Madagascar)	3a		
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>		EN	AEWA, CMS and EU 2005
- West Mediterranean (Spain & Morocco)	1a 1b 1c		
- Algeria & Tunisia	1a 1b 1c		
- East Mediterranean, Turkey & South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>		NT	AEWA 2008
- Eastern Africa	1c		
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>		LC	AEWA 2012
- Greenland/Ireland & UK	2*		
<i>Anser erythropus</i>		VU	AEWA 2008
- NE Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 2		
- Fennoscandia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>		EN	AEWA & EU 2012
- Northern Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 3a 3c		
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		NT	AEWA & CMS 2005
- West Mediterranean/North & West Africa	1a 1c		
- Eastern Europe/E Mediterranean & Sahelian Africa	1a 3c		
- Western Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa	1a 3c		
<i>Balearica regulorum regulorum</i>		EN	AEWA under preparation
- Southern Africa (N to Angola & S Zimbabwe)	1b 1c		
<i>Balearica regulorum gibbericeps</i>		EN	AEWA under

			preparation
- Eastern Africa (Kenya to Mozambique)	1b 3c		
<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>		CR	CMS MoU
- Iran (win)	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Sarothrura ayresi</i>		EN	AEWA & CMS 2008
- Ethiopia	1a 1b 1c		
- Southern Africa	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>		NT	AEWA & Bern 2002
- SE Europe & Western Asia/Southern Africa	4		
<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>		CR	AEWA & Bern 2002; AEWA & CMS 2012
- SE Europe & Western Asia/North-east Africa	1a 1b 2		
- Central Asian Republics/NW India	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Gallinago media</i>		NT	AEWA & Bern 2002
- Scandinavia/probably West Africa	4		
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/South-east Africa	4		
<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>		NT	AEWA & EU 2008
- Western Europe/NW & West Africa	4		
- Eastern Europe/Central & Eastern Africa	4		
- West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa	4		
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>		NT	AEWA & EU 2008
- Iceland/Western Europe	4		
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i> ¹		CR	CMS MoU
- Central Siberia/Mediterranean & SW Asia	1a 1b 1c		

¹ The 2008 Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans recommended finalisation of the Action Plan under the CMS Slender-billed Curlew MoU, but the SbC Working Group decided at its meeting in 2009 not to embark on finalising the Action Plan unless the species is observed again (last documented sightings in the late 1990s).

TABLE 2

Proposed revised priority list of waterbird populations for development of SSAPs 2012-2015 (colour code: pink – EN, orange – VU, yellow – NT, white – LC).

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend
	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>				EN		
1	- Coastal South-west Africa	1b 2				11,100	DEC
	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>				EN		
2	- Southern Africa	1b	2a 2c			180,000	DEC
	<i>Melanitta fusca fusca</i> ²				EN		
3	- Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe		2a 2c			450,000	DEC
	<i>Melanitta fusca fusca</i> ³				EN		
4	- Black Sea & Caspian	1c				1,500	UNK
	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>				VU		
5	- East Mediterranean	1a 1b 1c				1,000	DEC
	<i>Grus carunculatus</i>				VU		
6	- Central & Southern Africa	1b 1c				1-7,550	DEC
	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>				VU		
7	- Madagascar/East Africa	1c				5,000-10,000	DEC
	<i>Balearica pavonina pavonina</i>				VU		
8	- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)	1b 1c				5,000-10,000	DEC
	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>				VU		
9	- South-west Asia & South Asia (win)	1a 1b 1c				6,000-9,000	DEC
	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i> !!! ⁴				VU		
10	- Western Siberia/North-east Europe	1a 1b 2				10,000-15,000	DEC
	<i>Balearica pavonina ceciliae</i>				VU		
11	- Eastern Africa (Sudan to Uganda)	1b 3c				28,000-55,000	DEC

² Uplisted to Endangered after MOP5, therefore not listed under Column A, category 1b; Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Melanitta fusca*. There is an EU Management Plan 2007-2009 for the species.

³ Uplisted to Endangered after MOP5, therefore not listed under Column A, category 1b; Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Melanitta fusca*. There is an EU Management Plan 2007-2009 for the species.

⁴ EU Species Action Plan 2001; CAFF Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 1997.

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend
	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>				VU		
12	- South-west Asia	1a 1b 2				46,000-50,000	DEC
	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>				VU		
13	- Arabian Coast	1b	2a 2c			270,000	DEC
	<i>Sula (Morus) capensis</i>				VU		
14	- Southern Africa	1b	2a 2c			468,000	DEC
	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i> ⁵				VU		
15	- Western Siberia/North Europe		2c			1,600,000	DEC
	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i> !!! ⁶				VU		
16	- West Mediterranean/West Medit. & West Africa	1a 1b 1c				3,000-5,000	FLU
	<i>Grus paradise</i>				VU		
17	- Extreme Southern Africa	1b	1			25,500	STA
	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i> ⁷				VU		
18	- Iceland & Greenland			1		100,000-150,000	STA
	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>				VU		
19	- Gulf of Aden, Socotra, Arabian Sea	1b	1			60,000	STA/INC
	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i> !!! ⁸				VU		
20	- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)	1a 1b 1c				4,350-4,800	INC
	<i>Numenius arquata suschkini</i> ⁹				NT		
21	- South-east Europe & South-west Asia (bre)	1c				1-10,000	DEC
	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>				NT		

⁵ Uplisted to Vulnerable after MOP5, therefore not listed under Column A, category 1b; Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Clangula hyemalis* as a priority in relation to other mentioned species (*Melanitta fusca* and *Numenius arquata*).

⁶ Bern, CMS and EU Species Action Plan 1996; EU Species Action Plan 2008. The 2008 Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans recommended update/revision of the *Marmaronetta angustirostris* SSAP.

⁷ Uplisted to Vulnerable after MOP5, therefore not listed under Column A, category 1b; Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Clangula hyemalis* as a priority in relation to other mentioned species (*Melanitta fusca* and *Numenius arquata*).

⁸ Bern, CMS and EU Species Action Plan 1996. The 2008 Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans recommended update/revision of the *Pelecanus crispus* SSAP.

⁹ Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of an SSAP for *Numenius arquata*.

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend
22	- Coastal West Africa & Central Africa <i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>	2			NT	7,000-13,000	DEC
23	- Eastern & Southern Africa <i>Numenius arquata orientalis</i> ¹⁰	2			NT	8,000-12,000	DEC
24	- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa <i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	3c			NT	25,000-100,000	DEC?
25	- Coastal Southern Africa <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> ¹¹	4			NT	300,000	DEC
26	- Europe/Europe, North & West Africa <i>Gavia adamsii</i>	4			NT	700,000-1,000,000	DEC
27	- Northern Europe (win) <i>Charadrius pallidus venustus</i>	1c			NT	1-10,000	UNK
28	- Eastern Africa <i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>	1c			NT	6,500	STA
29	- Coastal South-west Africa <i>Charadrius pallidus pallidus</i>	1c			NT	8,700	STA
30	- Southern Africa <i>Sterna balaenarum</i>	2			NT	11,000-16,000	STA
31	- Namibia & South Africa/Atlantic coast to Ghana <i>Larus leucophthalmus</i>	2			NT	14,000	STA
32	- Red Sea & nearby coasts <i>Haematopus moquini</i>	1a	1		NT	37,000-44,000	STA
33	- Coastal Southern Africa <i>Larus audouinii</i> !!! ¹²	1c			NT	5,000-6,000	INC
34	- Mediterranean/N & W coasts of Africa	1a 3a				57,600	INC

¹⁰ Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Numenius arquata*.

¹¹ Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Numenius arquata*.

¹² Bern, CMS and EU Species Action Plan 1996; Barcelona Convention Action Plan for Annex-II-listed bird species 2003. The 2008 Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans recommended update/revision of the *Larus audouinii* SSAP.

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend
	<i>Grus virgo</i>				LC		
35	- Turkey (bre)	1c				30-60	DEC
	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus aethiopicus</i>				LC		
36	- Iraq & Iran	1c				200	DEC
	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i>				LC		
37	- West Africa	1c				1-500	DEC
	<i>Anas capensis</i>				LC		
38	- Lake Chad basin	1c				1-500	DEC
	<i>Grus grus</i>				LC		
39	- Turkey & Georgia (bre)	1c				200-500	DEC
	<i>Podiceps cristatus infuscatus</i>				LC		
40	- Eastern Africa (Ethiopia to N Zambia)	1c				1-1,000	DEC
	<i>Anas hottentota</i>				LC		
41	- Lake Chad Basin	1c				1-1,000	DEC
	<i>Sterna anaethetus melanopterus</i>				LC		
42	- W Africa	1c				1,500	DEC
	<i>Vanellus melanopterus minor</i>				LC		
43	- Southern Africa	1c				2,000-3,000	DEC
	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				LC		
44	- North-west Africa	1c				3,000	DEC
	<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>				LC		
45	- Baltic/SW Europe & NW Africa	1c				3,300-4,100	DEC
	<i>Botaurus stellaris capensis</i>				LC		
46	- Southern Africa	1c				5,000	DEC
	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>				LC		
47	- West & Central Siberia/Turkmenistan to W China	1c				5,000	DEC?
	<i>Fulica cristata</i> !!! ¹³				LC		
48	- Spain & Morocco	1c				5,000	DEC
	<i>Sarothrura boehmi</i>				LC		
49	- Central Africa	1c				1-10,000	DEC

¹³ EU Species Action Plan 1999.

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend
	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>				LC		
50	- West Africa	1c				1-10,000	DEC
	<i>Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris</i>				LC		
51	- South-west Asia/Eastern Africa	1c				1-10,000	DEC
	<i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i> !!! ¹⁴				LC		
52	W Europe, NW Africa (bre)	1c				5,850-6,700	DEC
	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>				LC		
53	- West Africa	1c				5,000-10,000	DEC
	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				LC		
54	- Europe & Western Asia (bre)	1a 3c				20,000-33,000	DEC
	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>				LC		
55	- North-east Europe/North-west Europe	3c*				63,000	DEC
	<i>Sterna dougallii bangsi</i>				LC		
56	- North Arabian Sea (Oman)	1c				1-600	UNK
	<i>Podiceps cristatus infuscatus</i>				LC		
57	- Southern Africa	1c				1-1,000	UNK
	<i>Grus virgo</i>				LC		
58	- Black Sea (Ukraine)/North-east Africa	1c				600-750	UNK
	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>				LC		
59	- Northern Siberia/Caspian	1c				1,000	UNK
	<i>Sterna bergii thalassina</i>				LC		
60	- Eastern Africa & Seychelles	1c				1,300-1,700	UNK
	<i>Sterna albifrons guineae</i>				LC		
61	- West Africa (bre)	1c				2,000-3,000	UNK
	<i>Sterna vittata tristanensis</i>				LC		
62	- Tristan da Cunha & Gough/South Africa	1c				2,400-4,500	UNK
	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>				LC		
63	- Eastern Siberia/SW Asia & W Southern Asia	1b 1c				2,000-5,000	UNK
	<i>Gavia immer</i>				LC		
64	- Europe (win)	1c				5,000	UNK

¹⁴ EU Species Action Plan 2001.

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend
	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus</i>				LC		
65	- Turkey & SW Asia/E. Mediterranean & Red Sea	1c				1-10,000	UNK
	<i>Mergus serrator serrator</i>				LC		
66	- Western Siberia/South-west & Central Asia	1c				1-10,000	UNK
	<i>Gavia stellate</i>				LC		
67	- Caspian, Black Sea & East Mediterranean (win)	1c				1-10,000	UNK
	<i>Porzana pusilla intermedia</i>				LC		
68	- Europe (bre)	1c				2,000-10,000	UNK
	<i>Sterna vittata vittata</i>				LC		
69	- P.Edward, Marion, Crozet & Kerguelen/South Africa	1c				6,700-8,000	UNK
	<i>Sterna bergii enigma</i>				LC		
70	- Madagascar & Mozambique/Southern Africa	1c				7,500-10,000	UNK
	<i>Mergus merganser merganser</i>				LC		
71	- North-east Europe/Black Sea	1c				10,000	UNK
	<i>Cepphus grylle faeroeensis</i>				LC		
72	- Faeroes	1c				10,000	UNK
	<i>Ciconia ciconia ciconia</i>				LC		
73	- Southern Africa	1c				20	STA
	<i>Phaethon aetherus aetherus</i>				LC		
74	- South Atlantic	1c				1,750	STA
	<i>Phaethon aetherus indicus</i>				LC		
75	- Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea	1c				2,400	STA
	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				LC		
76	- Southern Africa	1c				1,560-4,050	STA?
	<i>Sterna bengalensis emigrata</i>				LC		
77	- S Mediterranean/NW & West Africa coasts	1c				4,000	STA
	<i>Podiceps auritus auritus</i>				LC		
78	- North-west Europe (large-billed)	1c				4,600-6,800	STA
	<i>Anas capensis</i>				LC		
79	- Eastern Africa (Rift Valley)	1c				5,750-7,000	STA
	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i>				LC		
80	- Eastern & Southern Africa	2*				10,000-25,000	STA

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend
	<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>				LC		
81	- Southern Africa	1c				750-780	INC
	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				LC		
82	- South-west Europe/West Africa	1c				1,300-1,370	INC
	<i>Sterna caspia caspia</i>				LC		
83	- Southern Africa (bre)	1c				2,000	INC
	<i>Ardeola ralloides ralloides</i>				LC		
84	- SW Europe, NW Africa (bre)	1c				2,700-5,600	INC
	<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i> !!! ¹⁵				LC		
85	- Europe (bre)	1c				5,400-5,700	INC
	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>				LC		
86	- Svalbard/Denmark & UK	1c				7,600	INC
	<i>Sterna caspia caspia</i>				LC		
87	- Baltic (bre)	1c				8,000-11,000	INC
	<i>Sterna caspia caspia</i>				LC		
88	- Black Sea (bre)	1c				8,000-11,000	INC

¹⁵ EU Species Action Plan 1999.