

**1<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE AEW A WHITE-HEADED DUCK  
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**  
*24-26 October 2016, Madrid, Spain*

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AEW A WHITE-HEADED DUCK  
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**

**Introduction**

AEWA International Species Working Groups are established to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of AEW A Action Plans adopted for globally threatened and Near Threatened species. The Working Groups are guided by the generic Terms of Reference for AEW A International Species Working Groups which were adopted by the AEW A Technical Committee at its 9th Meeting in 2009.

**AEWA International Species Working Group Membership, Role and Tasks**

AEWA International Species Working Groups are inter-governmental, and are composed of national government representatives as well as national experts designated by the governments of the respective Principal Range States included in an Action Plan. In addition, the organizations represented in the AEW A Technical Committee as well as other international conservation and/or sustainable use organizations may be invited to join the Working Group as observers, as appropriate. Additional experts may also be invited to join meetings of the Working Group in the capacity of temporary observers as necessary. All observers must, however, be admitted by the members of the Working Group.

As outlined in the generic Terms of Reference adopted by the AEW A Technical Committee for Species Working Groups, the role of the Working Groups is to:

- 1) coordinate and catalyse the implementation of the International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) approved by the AEW A Meeting of the Parties;
- 2) stimulate and support Range States in the implementation of the ISSAP; and
- 3) monitor and report on the implementation and the effectiveness of the ISSAP.

The main tasks of the Working Group are further to:

- set priorities for action and implement them;
- coordinate the overall international implementation;
- raise funds for implementation;
- assist Range States in producing national action plans;
- ensure regular and thorough monitoring of the species populations;
- stimulate and support scientific research in the species necessary for conservation;
- promote the protection of the network of critical sites for the species;
- facilitate internal and external communication and exchange of scientific, technical, legal and other required information;
- assist with information in determination of the red list status and population size and trends of the species;

- regularly monitor the effectiveness of implementation of the ISSAP and take appropriate action according to the findings of this monitoring;
- regularly report on the implementation of the ISSAP to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties through the National Focal Points; and
- update the international ISSAP in as required.

Not mentioned in the Working Group Terms of Reference, but nonetheless a core task of each designated government representative in collaboration with the designated expert, is the responsibility to coordinate or to organize/provide for the coordination of the national implementation of the respective Action Plan and to function as the link between the International Working Group and the National Working Group (or other national body dealing with the implementation of the Plan).

The generic Terms of Reference developed by the AEWA Technical Committee have been modified for the AEWA White-headed Duck International Working Group below. These Terms of Reference currently follow the CMS/AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the White-headed Duck adopted in 2005, and will have to be modified to reflect the revised Action Plan.

It should also be noted that the role of coordinating organization and/or coordinator for the Working Group is currently vacant.

**Action requested from the AEWA WhD IWG:**

The Working Group is invited to take note of the attached Terms of Reference for the AEWA White-headed Duck International Working Group, to agree on a timeline for their amendment following the revision of the AEWA ISSAP for the White-headed Duck and to discuss possibilities for establishing coordination for the Working Group.

# **AEWA White-headed Duck International Working Group**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Goals** (*as defined in the International Single Species Action Plan for the White-headed Duck*)

- To restore the White-headed Duck to favourable conservation status and to remove it from the threatened categories on the IUCN Red List;
- To stabilise the White-headed Duck population size and distribution by 2015.

### **Role**

The role of the AEWA White-headed Duck International Working Group will be to:

- 1) coordinate and catalyse the implementation of the International White-headed Duck 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 White-headed Duck International Working Group will:

- set priorities for action and implement them;
- coordinate the overall international implementation;
- raise funds for implementation;
- assist Range States in producing national action plans;
- ensure regular and thorough monitoring of the species populations;
- stimulate and support scientific research in the species necessary for conservation;
- promote the protection of the network of critical sites for the species;
- facilitate internal and external communication and exchange of scientific, technical, legal and other required information, including with other specialists and interested parties;
- assist with information in determination of the red list status and population size and trends of the species;
- regularly monitor the effectiveness of implementation of the SSAP and take appropriate action according to the findings of this monitoring;
- regularly report on the implementation of the SSAP to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties through the National Focal Points; and
- update the international SSAP in 2015 or as required.

### **Membership**

The AEWA White-headed Duck 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:** *Countries regularly supporting the White-headed Duck* - Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

*Countries where the introduced North American Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* occurs* - Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The Chair of the AEWA White-headed Duck 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 Chairperson of the AEWA White-headed Duck International Working Group will be elected amongst its members.

A part-time Coordinator post will be based at [xxx]. The Coordinator will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Working Group and shall act in close cooperation with the Chairperson 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 Chairperson and the Coordinator.

### **Meetings**

The AEWA White-headed Duck 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 White-headed Duck 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.