



**SECOND MEETING OF THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS
WORKING GROUP**

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 25-27 November 2015

UNEP/CMS/AEMLWG-2/Doc.2

Date: 27 October 2015

**Terms of Reference for the Coordinator of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds
Working Group (AEMLWG) 2015-2017**

Prepared by BirdLife International and the CMS Secretariat

Breeding populations of many African-Eurasian migrant landbirds are rapidly declining. The Eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP11) adopted Resolution 11.17 including a flyway Action Plan for their conservation (AEMLAP). Proposed actions directly address threats to ca 500 migratory landbird species, including 34 that are globally threatened with extinction.

With no regulatory status, successful implementation of the actions contained within the plan will depend upon international coordination, including to catalyse and facilitate implementation of priority national actions, especially in Africa. At the heart of a strong network of stakeholders, the development of the AEML Working Group (AEMLWG), established in 2011 to produce the AEMLAP, into a mechanism to facilitate implementation of AEMLAP is key to the success of this initiative. The AEMLWG needs to facilitate agreement on priority national actions for implementation in the next one to two triennia and establishment of regional groups to support implementation of those priorities including through project development and implementation. These groups will support key stakeholders to engage with CMS focal points and commit to coordinated implementation.

The goals of AEMLAP align closely with BirdLife's 'Migratory Birds and Flyways' programme which supports countries to implement the CMS and the CBD (articles 6 and 8).

Specifically it supports:

- 1) Action Plan implementation for threatened/declining birds
- 2) Protection/management of flyway networks of critical sites
- 3) Implementation of international mechanisms for flyway scale collaboration
- 4) National/regional legislation and enforcement to address threats to migratory landbirds
- 5) Policy measures to maintain/improve habitats for migrant landbirds at the landscape scale

Reporting to:

Day to day supervision by Dr Kariuki Ndang'ang'a (Team leader for Species Science and Information Management, BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat, Nairobi). Overall supervision and coordination by Dr Borja Heredia (CMS Secretariat - Avian Unit, Bonn).

Reporting to job holder:

An intern based at the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat to coordinate the development and maintenance of a network of Friends of the Landbird Action Plan (FLAP).

Working Relationships

- CMS Secretariat – Avian Unit
- Africa-Eurasia Migratory Landbird (AEML) Working Group and Steering Group, and other CMS AE flyway-relevant groups as appropriate
- Experts and focal points of the institutions represented on the relevant working groups
- National and international agencies in Africa, Middle East, Europe and Central Asia dealing with landbird species action plan issues
- Any other relevant stakeholders especially FAO, IIED, IUCN, UNCCC, UNCCD and UNDP
- Relevant focal points for the Migratory Birds and Flyways Programme at the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat, the BirdLife Europe and Central Asia and Middle East Secretariat, Programme managers for relevant Species, Science and IBA Conservation, Local Empowerment and Regional Policy and Advocacy work areas
- Staff of BirdLife Global secretariat, especially in the Science, Policy and Information Management Departments
- The BirdLife Partnership and wider network in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Central Asia
- Staff at supporting partners who are members of related working groups, especially VBN and the RSPB

Overall purpose

To facilitate the effective implementation of Resolution 11.17 and associated African-Eurasian Migratory Landbird Action Plan and to support the operation of the AEML Working Group and Steering Group.

Responsibilities

1. Maintain an oversight of national and regional AEMLAP implementation and liaise with stakeholders as appropriate to proactively develop and maintain alliances to facilitate the effective implementation of the AEMLAP through:
 - a. Engagement with identified key stakeholders, including officials in range states, representatives of the development aid, agriculture and forestry sectors, civil society, experts and relevant treaties and international organizations;
 - b. Identifying implementation needs;
 - c. Identifying and supporting solutions to implementation barriers.
2. Act as the first point of contact for AEMLAP:

- a. Circulate relevant information to AEMLWG members, BirdLife Partners and other key stakeholders;
 - b. Support CMS, BirdLife and stakeholders as appropriate to develop external communications relevant to AEMLAP;
 - c. Attend relevant meetings at which advocacy related to AEMLAP implementation would be advantageous;
 - d. Support the activities of the AEMLWG and Steering Group, preparation of agendas, papers and minutes for WG and SG meetings, and any Task Forces or Regional Subgroups established under the WG, and any associated Single Species Working Groups, including, in November 2015, the second full meeting of the AEMLWG and the agreement of its Programme of Work for the 2015-2017 triennium;
3. Work closely with the CMS Secretariat to ensure the delivery of relevant reports and draft resolutions to the Scientific Council and COP12; overall coordination and communication with the CMS Focal Points and Parties will remain a responsibility of the CMS Secretariat;
 4. Prepare relevant reports to the AEML-WG, -SG and AEMLAP donors;
 5. Work in close cooperation with the CMS Secretariat to identify opportunities and facilitate applications to raise funds to support implementation of AEMLAP and/or its components, especially the action plans for Yellow-breasted Bunting, European Roller and Turtle Dove prioritized by Resolution 11.17;
 6. Supervise an intern to coordinate the development and maintenance of a network of Friends of the Landbird Action Plan (FLAP), including experts, other stakeholders and interested parties beyond the Working Group, for example through the development of a website, use of social media as appropriate, development and dissemination of materials, and attendance of meetings as appropriate and/or necessary to promote migratory landbird issues and Working Group activities at relevant national and international fora;
 7. Maintain links with the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbird Study Group (AEMLSG), an informal forum for coordinating, sharing information and promoting research on migratory landbirds in the AE flyway;
 8. Perform other duties as required.

Competencies

1. Teamwork: Excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to establish and maintain effective partnership and working relations in multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environments with sensitivity and respect for diversity;
2. Communication: Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to draft and edit policy, technical and communications documentation; good command of social media;
3. Expertise in the delivery of complex projects or programmes operating at large geographical scales through application of good project and programme management disciplines, including the ability to plan own work, to prioritise multiple tasks within set deadlines and a good understanding of the principles of clear decision-making, planning and management of risks;
4. Stakeholder management: Ability to build key partnerships internally and externally to further the implementation of the AEMLAP;
5. Professionalism: Empathy for and understanding of actions outlined in the AEMLAP;
6. A good knowledge of the UN system and its mission, especially CMS, UNEP, UNDP and FAO; knowledge of current issues related to birds and/or other terrestrial species conservation and management; knowledge of production and dissemination of public information; good research, problem-solving and analytical skills; sound judgement;

7. Continuous learning: Willingness to keep abreast of new developments in policies and practices that are relevant to the implementation of AEMLAP at a UN level and more widely;
8. Technological skills: Fully proficient with computer technology, including relevant software and applications, especially Microsoft Word, Excel, Project and Access.

Education

An advanced university degree (Masters' or equivalent) in a related subject (biology, ecology, zoology, environmental studies or a related field). A first level university degree in combination with qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced degree.

Work experience

A minimum of two years relevant work experience in the implementation of multi-stakeholder environmental management projects and programmes, some of which should be at an international level.

Languages

Fluency in oral and written English is essential. A good command of French is desirable. Knowledge of other UN languages, especially Russian, Spanish or Arabic is an asset.

Action requested:

The African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group is expected to review and endorse the Terms of Reference

