



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 10.27

Original: English

IMPROVING THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Tenth Meeting
(Bergen, 20-25 November 2011)

Concerned at the rapid decline in many African-Eurasian migratory landbird species;

Recognizing that Article II of the Convention requires all Parties to endeavour to conclude Agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species listed in Appendix II of the Convention;

Noting that CMS Article IV encourages Parties to conclude Agreements regarding populations of migratory species;

Aware that five African-Eurasian migratory landbirds are listed on Appendix I of CMS, four of which are among 85 African-Eurasian migratory landbirds listed on Appendix II;

Further aware that the species listed in Appendix I and Appendix II include more than 13 of the common trans-Saharan migrants known to have suffered the most severe population declines, such as several species of warblers, Sylviidae, the European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*, the Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, the Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*, the Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*, the Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*, the European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur turtur* and the European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*;

Further recognizing that the five African-Eurasian landbird species listed on CMS Appendix I are all categorized as either Endangered or Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List 2010 (the Basra Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*, the Spotted Ground-thrush *Zoothera guttata*, the Syrian Serin *Serinus syriacus*, the Blue Swallow *Hirundo atrocaerulea* and the Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*) and that two Near Threatened species (the European Roller *Coracias garrulus* and the Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*) are listed on Appendix II. In addition, not yet listed on either CMS Appendix, are one Vulnerable species (the Pale-backed Pigeon *Columba eversmanni*) and one Near Threatened species (the Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea*);

Noting that the Blue Swallow *Hirundo atrocaerulea* and the Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* are designated for CMS Concerted Action and the Aquatic Warbler is also the subject of a CMS Memorandum of Understanding;

Conscious that six of the trans-Saharan migrants of greatest conservation concern due to the severity of their population declines are not yet listed on either Appendix, namely the Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, the Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*, the Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, the House Martin *Delichon urbica*, the Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* and the Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*;

Recognizing the need for shared responsibility for the conservation and sustainable management of migratory landbirds in the region;

Further recognizing that African-Eurasian migratory landbirds include several iconic species with important cultural value (for example known for their songs or as harbingers of spring), and that many of them may also deliver significant ecosystem services (for example in consuming insect pests), and that measures to help conserve these species will, in turn, help to conserve many other species of flora and fauna;

Conscious that most landbirds are not covered by the existing instruments in the framework of the CMS for the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory birds, namely the African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia, although the Memorandum of Understanding for the Aquatic Warbler helps one relevant species;

Aware that a number of multilateral environmental agreements seek to address threats faced by migratory landbirds in the African-Eurasian region;

Further aware that non-governmental organizations, inter-governmental organizations and the private sector can all play important roles in the co-operative conservation of migratory landbirds in the region;

Conscious of the finding of the CMS Flyways Working Group in Review 3: Policy Options for Migratory Bird Flyways (UNEP/CMS/ScC17/Inf.4.3) that “due to the severe declines in populations of many trans-Saharan migrant landbirds, consideration needs to be given to the development of an action plan or other measure to address their needs”;

Welcoming the activities developed for the conservation of migratory landbirds in Eurasia and Africa;

Noting the Declaration from the British Ornithologists’ Union Conference on *Migratory Birds: Ecology and Conservation*, held in Leicester, United Kingdom, 5-7 April 2011 which calls on CMS “a) to develop a flyway action plan for the conservation of African-Eurasian migrant landbirds for adoption at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2014 and b) to commission, parallel to the production of the action plan, research to determine which international, national and local institutions influence relevant land use policy and practice in the sub-Saharan countries, on which most declining long distance land bird migrants depend during the non-breeding period”; and

Desiring to see a flyway action plan for African-Eurasian migratory landbirds as a matter of priority, being an important contribution to the general aims of CMS, and in particular to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for these species and their habitats;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Urges* Parties to the Convention and *invites* non-Party Range States and other stakeholders to engage in co-operative activities to promote the sustainable management of migratory landbirds of the African-Eurasian flyway, in particular by:
 - a. alleviating habitat degradation through the development and promotion of sustainable land management policies and practices;
 - b. eliminating unsustainable harvesting;
 - c. monitoring population trends throughout the region;
 - d. undertaking research to identify population-specific migratory routes, connectivity, wintering and staging areas and to understand the habitat requirements of, and threats to, African-Eurasian migrants during all stages of their life cycle;
 - e. raising awareness of the conservation status of African-Eurasian migrant landbirds, the threats they face and the measures needed to conserve them; and
 - f. exchanging information in order to develop and implement best-practice approaches to the conservation and sustainable management of these species;
2. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Party Range States and other stakeholders with the CMS Secretariat to develop an Action Plan for the conservation of African-Eurasian migrant landbirds and their habitats throughout the flyway, for adoption at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the basis of which the COP can consider the need for a new instrument or using an existing instrument as a framework;
3. *Calls* on the Scientific Council and Secretariat to support this initiative, including through the establishment, under the Scientific Council, of a working group to steer the production and implementation of the action plan;
4. *Encourages* existing multilateral environmental agreements that can help eliminate or reduce the threats faced by migratory landbirds in the African-Eurasian region to improve liaison and work co-operatively; and
5. *Invites* international organizations and non-governmental organizations, having biodiversity conservation as part of their mandate, to provide appropriate assistance, including technical and financial support, for the conservation and sustainable management of migratory landbirds in the region.

African-Eurasian Migrant Landbirds listed on CMS Appendix I: Total five (four, in bold, also listed on Appendix II)

<i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i>	Blue Swallow
<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	Aquatic Warbler
<i>Acrocephalus griseldis</i>	Basra Reed-warbler
<i>Zoothera guttata</i>	Spotted Ground-thrush
<i>Serinus syriacus</i>	Syrian Serin

African-Eurasian Migrant Landbirds listed on CMS Appendix II: Total 85

<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	European Turtle-dove
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	European Roller
<i>Merops apiaster</i>	European Bee-eater
<i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i>	Blue Swallow
<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Cetti's Warbler
<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Common Grasshopper-warbler
<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	Eurasian River Warbler
<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	Savi's Warbler
<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	Moustached Warbler
<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	Aquatic Warbler
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Sedge Warbler
<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Eurasian Reed-warbler
<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	Marsh Warbler
<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Great Reed-warbler
<i>Acrocephalus griseldis</i>	Basra Reed-warbler
<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler
<i>Hippolais opaca</i>	Western Olivaceous Warbler
<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>	Olive-tree Warbler
<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	Melodious Warbler
<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	Icterine Warbler
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Common Chiffchaff
<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	Iberian Chiffchaff
<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	Bonelli's Warbler
<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Wood Warbler
<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Yellow-browed Warbler
<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	Arctic Warbler
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Garden Warbler
<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Common Whitethroat
<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Lesser Whitethroat
<i>Sylvia minula</i>	Small Whitethroat
<i>Sylvia nana</i>	Desert Warbler
<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	Barred Warbler
<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	Orphean Warbler
<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>	Rueppell's Warbler
<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Sardinian Warbler
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	Cyprus Warbler
<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Subalpine Warbler
<i>Sylvia mystacea</i>	Menetries's Warbler
<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	Spectacled Warbler

<i>Sylvia deserticola</i>	Tristram's Warbler
<i>Sylvia sarda</i>	Marmora's Warbler
<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	Bearded Parrotbill
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest
<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Firecrest
<i>Zoothera guttata</i>	Spotted Ground-thrush
<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Ring Ouzel
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Eurasian Blackbird
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European Robin
<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	Thrush Nightingale
<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Common Nightingale
<i>Luscinia calliope</i>	Siberian Rubythroat
<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Bluethroat
<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	Orange-flanked Bush-robin
<i>Irania gutturalis</i>	White-throated Robin
<i>Erythropygia galactotes</i>	Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin
<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Black Redstart
<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Common Redstart
<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>	Moussier's Redstart
<i>Phoenicurus erythrogastrus</i>	White-winged Redstart
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat
<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Common Stonechat
<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	White-tailed Wheatear
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Northern Wheatear
<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>	Finsch's Wheatear
<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	Black-eared Wheatear
<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	Pied Wheatear
<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	Cyprus Wheatear
<i>Oenanthe xanthopyrna</i>	Kurdish Wheatear
<i>Oenanthe chrysopygia</i>	Red-tailed Wheatear
<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	Desert Wheatear
<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Isabelline Wheatear
<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush
<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Blue Rock-thrush
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher
<i>Stenostira scita</i>	Fairy Warbler
<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	European Pied Flycatcher
<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	Collared Flycatcher
<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>	Semi-collared Flycatcher
<i>Ficedula parva</i>	Red-breasted Flycatcher