

ADDENDUM 1
In-session version

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC6)

**ACTION PLAN FOR MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION
(AEMLAP)**

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.2

(ScC-SC6 Agenda item 10.2)

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP14

The ScC-SC6 recommends to the COP to adopt the draft resolution and decisions including the text changes proposed below.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

During the meeting of the Avian Working Group, it was stated that more resources for implementation of the AEMLAP needed to be supplied by Parties and the activities needed to be made more visible. More leadership and initiative were needed from the Range States of AEMLAP, because currently, only 58 of 129 Range States were part of the AEML Working Group following invitations from the Secretariat. The lack of funding for this initiative was highlighted. A Decision was proposed to express the needs for support in a stronger way.

It is recommended that the AEMLAP species list is updated following the intersessional work done on disaggregation and taxonomy.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

The group found the report on the section *Activities to implement Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP13) and Decisions 13.34 to 13.38* helpful, and requested some minor corrections (new text underlined):

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.2 page 4:

“9. Members of the AEML SG promoted the AEMLAP at various congresses, such as the Pan-African Ornithological Congress (Uganda–Zimbabwe, November 2022) and the 4th Meeting of the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (India, May 2023) to promote synergies between both processes.”

“10. Members of the AEML WG, and the Secretariat also supported a multi-partner collaborative project funded ~~run~~ by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, Integrating science, policy and sustainable development to address African-Eurasian migrant landbird declines: African perspectives on a flyway-wide issue, which started in 2020.”

Regarding the draft revisions of the Resolution contained in Annex 1, the group support the updates finding them useful and correct. The group proposes some additional edits as follows:

1. on page 7, to the second paragraph of the preamble to include the CBD’s target regarding habitat restoration (new text underlined in the below paragraph):

“Aware that the status of migratory landbirds is widely used as an indicator of the overall health of the environment and other biodiversity, *inter alia* the achievement of Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) related to the effective restoration of degraded areas¹² of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and when monitored with standardized methods migratory landbirds can provide an effective indicator of sustainable land use,”

2. On page 9, after the paragraph starting with “Taking note of the conclusion of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative workshop (...)” the group suggests adding another paragraph:

“Further noting the conclusion of the PAOC symposium and round table ‘Integrating science, policy and sustainable development to address African-Eurasian migrant landbird declines: African perspectives on a flyway-wide issue’ that there are many opportunities for positive outcomes for migratory landbirds, wider biodiversity and local communities if biodiversity and human development focused communities work together on ecosystem restoration-based approaches to sustainable development, including on selection of tree species to maximise benefits to both local communities and biodiversity, framing interventions to deliver on both socioeconomic and biodiversity indicators and using monitoring of outcomes of interventions in the landscape to build a better understanding of effectiveness of different approaches.”

The group proposes the following changes on the draft Decisions contained in Annex 2:

Regarding Decision 14.AA Directed to Parties (page 12), the Working Group proposes to add the following paragraphs and edit existing ones:

14.AA Directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to: (...)

- a) “are urged to support the coordination of the activities needed for the implementation of the AEMLAP and the Working Group’s Programme of Work, and for the organization of at least one meeting of the Working Group, during the intersessional period between the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) and COP15”;
- b) “particularly those that are Parties, Signatories or Range States, respectively, also to the two other CMS instruments –the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU)– are urged to support as soon as possible the timely implementation of the joint project on the assessment of the status of and the development of action plans for priority principal bird habitats along the African-Eurasian flyways”;
- c) are encouraged to promote the use of satellite imagery in conjunction with ground habitat and bird monitoring, to better understand the impacts of land cover and land use change on African-Eurasian migrant birds, and the drivers of those impacts;
- d) are encouraged to take note of relevant projects such as the Eurasian African Bird Migration Atlas and the African Bird Atlas, and incorporate their findings into their conservation policies for migratory landbirds;
- e) are encouraged to take note of the recent developments towards defining a new institutional framework under the CMS for the Central Asian Flyway (CAF), and ensure synergies are sought across Range States of both AEMLAP and CAF;

- f) are encouraged to assess the status of and the development of action plans for priority land bird species using the African-Eurasian flyways;
- g) “are requested to report on progress in implementing the AEMLAP and integrating it into delivery against other relevant international agreements, including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to COP15, via their National Reports, in order to achieve CMS objectives.”

Regarding Decision 14.BB Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (page 12f), the group proposed to delete paragraph b as it was considered redundant:

“Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: (...)

- ~~b) are urged to support the Working Group to organize at least one meeting within the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15 to, among other activities, review the implementation of the Action Plan and the Programme of Work; “~~

The Working Group did not see the need to change Decision 14.CC Directed to the Scientific Council (page 13).

In Decision 14.DD Directed to the Secretariat (page 13), it was proposed to add a new subparagraph:

“The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources: (...)

- c) “organize in the intersessional period between the 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties a consultation meeting of Range States to agree on whether the Action Plan should remain as a stand-alone document or whether a new CMS instrument should be developed, or an existing CMS instrument should be used as institutional framework or any other solution should be sought that could enable the AEMLAP to have better chances of being implemented fully.”