

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS

(arising from ScC-SC8)

ACTION PLAN FOR MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.5

(ScC-SC8 Agenda item 9.5)

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Sessional Committee noted the document and proposed amendments the introductory paragraphs of the document and proposed draft amendments to the Decisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15

The Scientific Council recommends to adopt the draft resolution and decisions with amendments as specified below.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

The following paragraph is proposed for addition in the Reporting section on page 5 of the document under paragraph 12 as follows:

The Swiss Ornithological Institute supported the AEML Coordination Unit and also the following projects and activities

It also proposed to add two more activities in this paragraph, as follows:

- c) Supporting the development of the Massive Open Online Course RESSOURCE MOOC (by FAO): "Identifying and counting waterbirds in North Africa and the Sahel – How and why". Contribution of two additional modules about "threats for migratory birds" and "landbirds". More than 1,400 people have registered since the launch in September 2025, with several already having achieved the certificate by correctly answering more than 70% of the questions. These numbers exceed expectations.
- d) Strengthening communication through social media (Friends of the Landbirds Action Plan) and the webinar-series "Fridays4Birds". The webinar series Fridays4Birds continues to play a significant role in the career development and outreach of young ornithologists, particularly in East and West Africa. Up to now, about 140 webinars have been organised and are available on the F4B YouTube channel.

The following amendments are proposed for addition in draft Decision 15.AA (page 13 of the document):

15.AA Directed to Parties

Parties are ~~urged~~encouraged to:

- a) ~~Engage actively in the implementation of the AEML Action Plan.~~
- a)b) ~~Contribute to the engage in the design,~~ implementation and monitoring of the AEMLAP Programme of Work, ~~incl. financial contributions, promoting the use of satellite imagery in conjunction with ground habitat and bird monitoring.~~
- b)c) ensure synergies are sought across Range States of both AEMLAP and the Initiative for the Central Asian Flyway (CAF);

The following amendments are proposed for addition in draft Decision 15.CC (page 13 of the document):

15.CC Directed to the Scientific Council

The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

- a) continue the Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds until COP17~~6~~, extending its membership and incorporating expertise from regions currently absent, to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan, developing indicators to assess the implementation of the Programme of Work 2026-2032;