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**PROGRAMME OF WORK (POW) FOR THE WORKING GROUP (WG)  
ON THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS ACTION PLAN (AEMLAP)  
2026-2032**

*(Prepared by the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan Working Group)*

Summary:

To better guide and support the implementation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP), and to help Parties, the Scientific Council, and international organizations carry out Decisions 14.130 to 14.132, the AEMLAP Working Group— together with its Coordination Unit at the Swiss Ornithological Institute and the Secretariat — has updated its Programme of Work for the years 2026 to 2032.

This Information document should be read in conjunction with Document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.5 *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)*.



## AFRICAN EURASIAN MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS

### **PROGRAMME OF WORK (POW) FOR THE WORKING GROUP (WG) ON THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS ACTION PLAN (AEMLAP) 2026-2032**

Version: 8 July 2025

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## ACRONYMS

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|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| AEMLAP    | African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan  |
| AEWA      | African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement  |
| APLORI    | Anastasios P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (Nigeria)  |
| BTO       | British Trust for Ornithology   |
| BLI       | BirdLife International  |
| CAF       | Central Asian Flyway  |
| CMS       | Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals                                       |
| COP       | Conference of the Parties   |
| DG-ENV    | Directorate-General for the Environment of the European Commission  |
| EBCC      | European Bird Census Council  |
| EOU       | European Ornithologists Union   |
| ETF       | Energy Task Force   |
| EURING    | European Union for Bird Ringing   |
| EURO SAP  | European Union Species Action Plan  |
| FACE      | European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation  |
| FLAP      | Friends of the Landbirds Action Plan  |
| IKB       | Illegal Killing of Birds  |
| IOC       | International Ornithologist's Union Conference  |
| IREC-CSIC | Research Institute of Hunting Resources of Spain  |
| IUCN      | The International Union for Conservation of Nature  |
| MIKT      | Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean |
| MLSG      | Migrant Landbirds Study Group   |
| MSB       | Migratory Soaring Birds Project   |
| MOOC      | Massive Online Course   |
| MOU       | Memorandum of Understanding   |
| NABU      | Naturschutzbund Deutschland   |
| NGO       | Non-Governmental Organisation   |
| OFB       | Office Français de la Biodiversité  |
| PAOC      | Pan-African Ornithological Congress   |
| POW       | Programme of Work   |
| RSPB      | The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK)  |
| SABAP2    | South African Bird Atlas Project 2  |
| SANBI     | South African National Biodiversity Institute   |
| SAP       | Species Action Plan   |
| SWOT      | Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats   |
| UNCCD     | United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification  |
| UNDP      | United Nations Development Programme  |
| WG        | Working Group   |
| WOCAT     | The World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies  |

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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS DOCUMENT

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### 1.1. Background

The African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan ([AEMLAP](#)) aims at improving the conservation status of migratory landbird species along the African-Eurasian region through coordinating actions at the international scale and through catalysing actions at national level. Its overall goal is to develop an initial overarching strategic framework to conserve, restore and sustainably manage populations of migratory landbird species and their habitats.

The overall objectives of the AEMLAP complement the work of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds ([AEWA](#)), the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats ([CAF](#)) and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia ([Raptors MOU](#)) toward restoring the status of all African-Eurasian migratory bird species.

The thematic focus areas of the AEMLAP are habitat conservation, research and monitoring, education and information, taking and trade, and other issues, such as diseases and collision. Thus far, habitat loss and degradation (declining habitat quality, loss of habitat structures, use of pesticides, etc.) have been identified as the most important threats to migratory landbird species throughout the flyway. Moreover, taking and trade for economic and cultural purposes may also negatively influence some migratory landbird populations.

The vision of the AEMLAP is to adequately monitor landbird species migrating along the African-Eurasian flyways, to identify and mitigate threats to them, to improve their conservation and to preserve and/or sustainably manage their habitats.

### 1.2. The Programme of Work (POW) of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group

The AEML WG Programme of Work (AEML WG POW) 2026–2032 is a targeted operational framework that draws from the broader African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP). While the Action Plan provides a comprehensive and strategic vision for the conservation of migratory landbirds, the POW focuses on prioritized, feasible, and high-impact actions that the Working Group can realistically implement within a defined timeframe.

The POW does not aim to implement every action listed in the AEMLAP. Instead, it:

- Identifies the most urgent and achievable actions.
- Focuses on areas where the AEML WG has mandate, capacity, and partnerships.
- Aligns with available resources and coordination mechanisms.
- Operationalizes the AEMLAP by translating strategic goals into concrete activities.
- Coordinates efforts among stakeholders (e.g. NGOs, governments, researchers).
- Monitors progress through indicators, timelines, and budgets.

The implementation of the AEMLAP has been steered and supported by the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group ([AEML WG](#)). The activities of the AEML WG in recent years were guided by its Programme of Work (POW) 2021-2026. The revised POW for the period 2026-2032 presented here features problems, objectives and activities that are specified through a multi-step process. First, a ‘problem tree’ was developed to understand the most urgent topics and threats for the conservation of

migratory landbirds. Based on this problem tree, an 'objective tree' was developed, on which the strategic fields of the AEMLAP were highlighted. Lastly, these strategic fields are further elaborated in detail below applying a standard LogFrame approach and integrating Theory of Change (ToC) diagrams.

The present document updates all previous versions of the Programme of Work for the AEML WG and aims to:

- a) present an analysis of the state of the AEML WG POW implementation;
- b) outline the main objectives, activities, and indicators for the POW for the period 2026–2032;
- c) identify gaps and needs; and plan accordingly to overcome these; and
- d) develop a monitoring system for the AEML WG POW implementation.

## 2. MANDATE

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The AEML WG was created based on the mandate of CMS [Resolution 10.27 Improving the Conservation Status of Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region](#), adopted at the Tenth Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (CMS COP10, Bergen, Norway, 2011), which called on the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to support this initiative, including through the establishment, under the Scientific Council, of a working group to steer the production and implementation of an African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan.

The AEML WG and its POW focus on protecting all wild migratory landbird species within the scope of the AEMLAP, by working alongside CMS Parties, public and private institutions, as well as other existing instruments and supporters. The present update of the POW is a further development of the AEML POW 2021-2026 and was coordinated by the AEML SG, supported by the Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI) as the Coordination Unit of the AEML WG, and approved via electronic correspondence by the AEML WG in July 2025.

### **2.1 Decisions of CMS COP 14 concerning AEMLAP**

Through [Decision 14.130 Action Plan For Migratory Land Birds in the African-Eurasian Region \(AEMLAP\)](#), CMS COP14 (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 2024) requested the following:

Directed to the Parties:

- 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 also Parties or Signatories to, or Range States of species covered by, the two other relevant 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 encouraged 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 on the 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 and avoid land use and land use change harmful to migratory birds;
- 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 species conservation and restoration 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, and contribute towards the development of action plans for priority 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;
  - h) are encouraged to significantly increase the area under biodiversity/migratory species friendly practices in agriculture and forestry;
  - i) are encouraged to promote nesting site detection in relevant agricultural areas to avoid their destruction and degradation.

Directed to the Scientific Council (subject to the availability of resources):

- a) continue the Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds until COP15, extending its membership and incorporating expertise from geographical regions currently absent, to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan, developing indicators to assess the implementation of the Programme of Work 2021–2026;
- b) work with the Migratory Landbird Study Group, relevant academic institutions, research-funders and the Working Group, to actively promote research that addresses key knowledge gaps relating to migratory landbird conservation in Eurasian landscapes, as outlined in paragraph 8 of Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14) Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP);
- c) provide support to the Working Group, its Steering Group and Coordination Unit for the implementation of the Working Group Programme of Work.

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations:

- a) and particularly Parties as well as bilateral and multilateral donors, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Economic Community of West African States and other relevant international organizations, in the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, are urged to engage in the implementation of the Programme of Work of the AEML WG, namely by facilitating the exchange of information on key species and habitats, in particular to tackle the barriers to sustainable land use and conservation of habitats in Africa, including the priorities for West Africa and Central Asia, and through the provision of technical assistance to developing countries for relevant capacity-building;
- b) are urged to support and cooperate on existing international approaches to retain and enhance tree cover (e.g., Bonn Challenge, Trillion Trees, Great Green Wall) and local aid and development projects around agriculture and forestry, through monitoring outcomes, enabling comparisons between sites and across years, where possible in properly designed experiments, to provide insights on interventions that can create win-win scenarios for birds as a proxy for biodiversity, for local communities in terms of socioeconomic benefits, and for land degradation neutrality and nature-based solutions, or that, at the least, can benefit birds without detriment to these other objectives;
- c) are invited to promote the enrichment of vegetation cover (including, but not limited to trees) through the use of native species and promotion of ecologically sustainable land management practices and wise use of water.

Directed to the Secretariat (subject to the availability of resources):

- a) promote the importance of sustainable land use for migratory birds, and the specific practices and approaches outlined in the Programme of Work of the Working Group of the AEMLAP, together with relevant UN agencies and other international institutions, and seek opportunities for collaborative action to encourage sustainable land use for migratory species and people;
- work together with relevant United Nations agencies, international organizations and other stakeholders to organize a workshop on the integration of biodiversity requirements into land degradation neutrality delivery at appropriate scale;
- support discussion within the Preventing Poisoning Working Group concerning possible action to minimize the impact of agricultural pesticides on landbirds in line with the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan, as well as the delivery of the pesticide mandate under Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14);
- organize, in the intersessional period between the 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, a consultation meeting of Range States to discuss and agree possible options to improve implementation of the AEMLAP.

### **3. SCOPE OF THE AEML WG PROGRAMME OF WORK**

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The geographic scope of this AEML WG Programme of Work covers the area along the migration systems of African-Eurasian landbird species, hereafter referred to as the 'Action Plan Area'. This area includes Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and the Indian sub-continent. The map of the Action Plan Area (Figure 1) and list of Range States can be found in Annex 2 of the [AEMLAP](#). The species list in Annex 3 was updated to version 12 (December 2019).

The taxonomic scope comprises populations of Galliformes, Gruiformes, Charadriiformes, Columbiformes, Caprimulgiformes, Apodiformes, Cuculiformes, Coraciiformes, Piciformes and Passeriformes, and for which the entire population, or significant proportions of the population, cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries. Further, the migratory landbird species covered by the AEMLAP are classified into three categories:

- A: Globally Threatened and Near-Threatened;
- B: Least Concern, but with decreasing global population trends; and
- C: Least Concern, with increasing, stable or unknown global population trends.

The AEMLAP sets out to particularly include species that are neither covered by AEWA nor by the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats or the Raptors MOU. However, migratory landbird species that are covered by these instruments and other policy instruments have been indicated as such in Annex 3 of the AEMLAP.



**Figure 1. Range of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan AEMLAP (Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP13)/Rev.1/Annex).**

#### 4. METHODOLOGY FOR PREPARING THE AEML WG PROGRAMME OF WORK

##### 4.1 Situation Analysis

Prior to the development of this AEML WG Programme of Work, an assessment of the current situation, including problems and their causes, as well as needs, interests and capacities, was undertaken. During the period 2024-2025, a draft version of this Programme of Work was shared amongst all members of the AEML Steering Group, and their revisions and suggestions were incorporated where feasible.

##### 4.2 Analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT)

This analysis is a framework used to evaluate the current state of the AEML WG POW and to serve as a basis for the next phases of the strategic review. A SWOT analysis assessed internal and external factors as well as current and future potential (Table 1).

**Table 1. Analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) of the AEML WG Programme Of Work (POW) 2026-2032.**

| STRENGTHS  | WEAKNESSES   |
|--|--|
| <p>Internationally acknowledged experts in AEML Steering and Working Group</p> <p>Structured AEML WG coordination unit at SOI</p> <p>Flyway-scale approach</p> <p>Updated and solid current knowledge on the conservation status of palearctic migrants</p> <p>Development and implementation of single- and multi-species Action Plans</p> <p>Strong environmental legislative framework covering multiple range states</p> <p>An active Migrant Landbird Study Group (MLSG; EUFLYNET)</p> <p>Public outreach and awareness strengthening through social medias, webinars and courses (e.g. Friends of Landbirds Action Plan – FLAP; Fridays4Birds, MOOC)</p> | <p>Insufficient implementation due to large programme, multiple threats and long species list</p> <p>Insufficient law enforcement</p> <p>Frequent alternation and absence of strictly defined focal points across range states and partial absence from existing AEML WG</p> <p>Limited or no financial support and full commitment from Parties</p>   |
| OPPORTUNITIES  | THREATS  |
| <p>CMS Parties can step up and enhance their commitments</p> <p>Strengthening synergies with other CMS instruments</p> <p>Potential to work closely with UNCCD, Pan-African Great Green Wall and other fora, promoting landbirds as indicators of sustainable land-use, in line with the Abuja declaration</p>   | <p>Absence of stable and fully funded AEMLAP coordination post</p> <p>Political instability in several range states</p> <p>Insufficient active engagement towards implementing AEMLAP in the range states</p> <p>Gaps in our knowledge about conservation needs for some species during the annual cycle</p> <p>Complex dynamics followed by landbirds, which require a landscape approach rather than site-based protection</p> |

### **4.3 Problem Analysis**

Problem analysis can be defined as the thorough study of one or more problems (identified during the assessment stage), to identify their causes and decide whether and how to tackle them. The problem tree analysis (Annex: Figure 3) presents the causes (lower half) and consequences (upper half) of the current declines of migratory landbirds within the AEMLAP region. It was developed to get a clear and shared understanding of the problem. Four different “strategic fields” were identified in this exercise: A) Habitat Loss B), Direct Threats, C) Knowledge Gaps, and D) Insufficient Communication, Education and Public Awareness.

### **4.4 AEMLAP Objectives and Strategy**

The next step in the strategic review was to transform the problem tree into an “objectives tree” (Figure 2). Each negative problem highlighted in the problem tree was converted into an objective by rewriting it as a positive statement.

### **4.5 AEML WG Programme of Work Logical Framework (Logframe) development**

A logical framework approach was used to set out the objectives and actions of each previously defined strategic field: (A) Habitat Loss, (B) Direct Threats, C) Knowledge Gaps, and D) Insufficient Communication, Education and Public Awareness (Annex, Figures 4 to 7).

For each of the four strategic fields, long-term, mid-term and short-term goals were defined (Annex, Figures 4 to 7), and corresponding activities and actions highlighted (Table 2). Short-term goals are for up to 6 years (until CMS COP17), mid-term goals for up to 12 years; interventions are to be started and implemented within the next 6 years (until CMS COP17). The timeline (Table 3) and budget (Table 4) for the implementation of the activities in the POW are also provided. Table 5 in the Annex give an overview of the indicators, verification methods and risks identified for the goals of the four strategic fields.

## **5. ACTIVITIES IN THE FOUR STRATEGIC FIELDS OF THE AEML WG POW**

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The activities of the AEML WG POW 2026-2032 are summarized in Table 2.

### **5.1 (A) Habitat conservation**

The conservation of habitats is a cornerstone of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP), as habitat loss and degradation remain the most significant threats to migratory landbird populations across the flyway. Strategic Field A of the AEML WG Programme of Work (2026–2032) focuses on improving habitat quality, promoting sustainable land use, and fostering synergies with ongoing restoration initiatives. The activities outlined under this field aim to demonstrate the ecological and socio-economic benefits of habitat conservation, support the development of targeted action plans, and integrate migratory bird needs into broader environmental and development agendas.

### **5.2 (B) Species conservation**

The conservation of migratory landbird species is a critical component of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP). Strategic Field B focuses on

reversing population declines, supporting the implementation of existing species action plans (SAPs), and addressing direct threats such as unsustainable hunting, poisoning, and light pollution. This field also promotes the development of multi-species and guild-based approaches to conservation, recognizing that many species share similar ecological needs and threats.

The activities under this strategic field aim to strengthen international cooperation, improve legal and policy frameworks, and implement targeted conservation actions across the flyway.

### **5.3 (C) Research and Monitoring**

Effective conservation of migratory landbirds depends on a solid foundation of scientific knowledge. Strategic Field C of the AEML WG Programme of Work focuses on enhancing research and monitoring efforts to better understand the ecology, movements, and conservation needs of migratory landbird species across the African-Eurasian flyway. This includes identifying critical habitats and resources, tracking migratory patterns, and supporting the development of national and regional monitoring frameworks.

The activities in this field aim to fill key knowledge gaps, promote collaboration among the Migratory Landbirds Study Group (MLSG), research institutions and conservation networks, and ensure that conservation actions are informed by robust, evidence-based knowledge.

### **5.4 (D) Communication, Education and Public Awareness**

Raising awareness and building broad support are essential for the long-term success of migratory landbird conservation. Strategic Field D of the AEML WG Programme of Work focuses on strengthening communication with key stakeholders, enhancing public engagement, and promoting education and training initiatives across the African-Eurasian flyway. This includes outreach through social media, webinars, international events, and the development of educational resources.

The activities in this field aim to foster a culture of conservation, increase visibility of AEMLAP objectives, and empower communities, policymakers, and practitioners with the knowledge and tools needed to support migratory bird conservation.

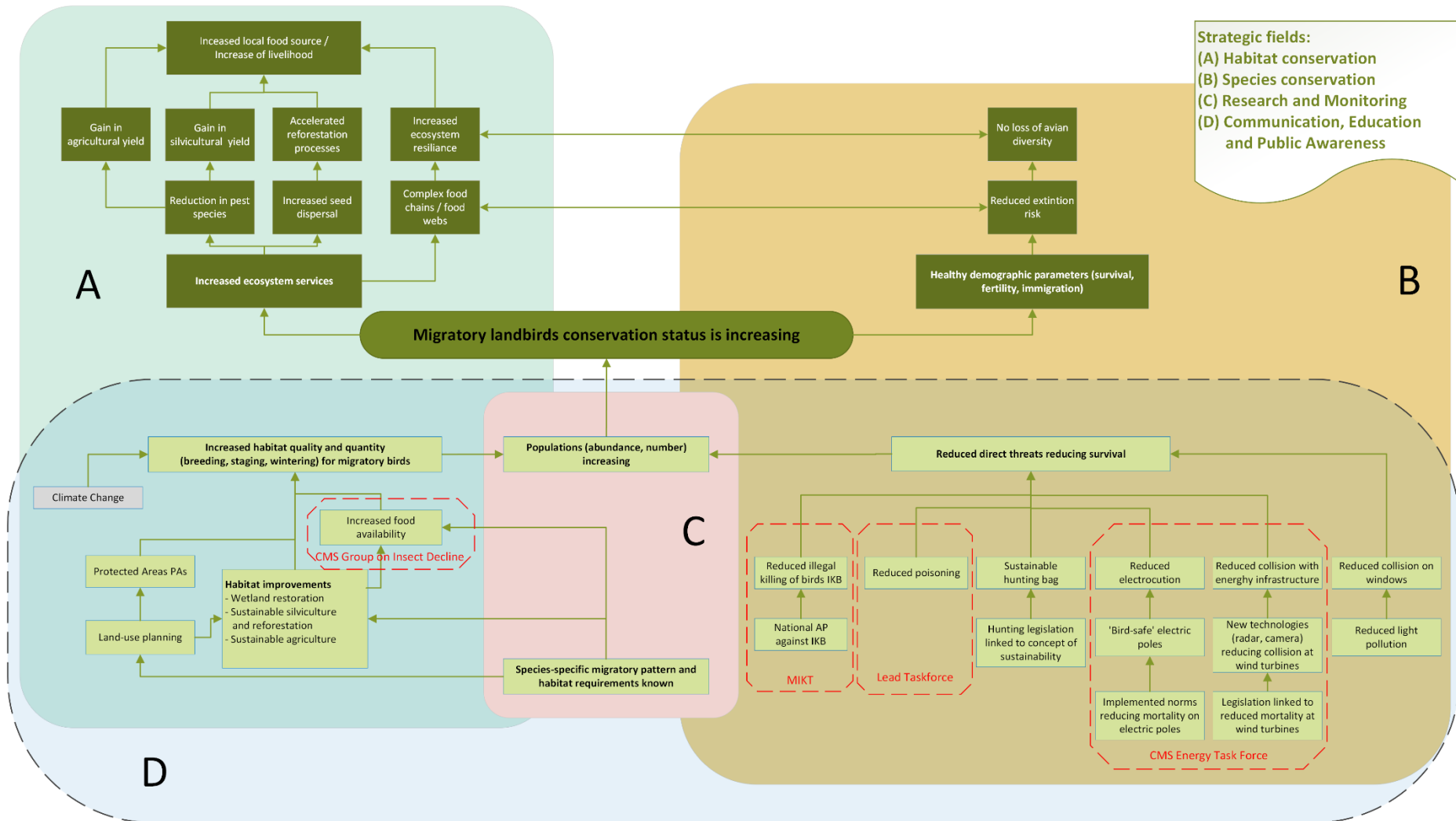


Figure 2. Objectives tree. Coloured boxes A to D highlight the four strategic fields on which the AEML WG Programme of Work (POW) 2026-2032 was built. Red dashed lines highlight fields that are covered by other existing CMS instruments.

**Table 2. Activities for the four strategic fields of the AEML WG Programme of Work (POW) 2026-2032.**

| Strategic Field   | Mandate   | Responsible entity and supporting partners  | Organizations, initiatives and projects (examples)  |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Activities for Strategic Field A – Habitat Conservation</b>  |   |   |   |
| <b>Activities for short-term goal A 1.1: Demonstrate the importance of measures to maintain and improve habitat quality for migratory birds and sustainable livelihoods</b> |   |   |   |
| A.1.1.1   | Engage in habitat restoration or conservation projects to promote evidence-based measures for biodiversity  | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.131</i>   | AEML WG<br>AEML SG<br>AEML CU<br>NGOs<br><br><a href="#">Project “newTree/tiipalga”</a>   |
| A 1.1.2   | Engage in projects about sustainable resource use derived from restored habitats that enhance local livelihood  | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.131</i>   | AEML WG<br>AEML CU<br>NGOs<br><br><a href="#">Project “newTree/tiipalga”</a><br><br><a href="#">Community Resource Management Areas CREMA in Ghana</a><br><br><a href="#">Bird, Bees and Business</a> |
| A 1.1.3   | Engage in projects integrating naturally generated products from restored and improved habitats in economically relevant value chains   | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.131</i>   | AEML WG<br>AEML CU<br>NGOs<br><br><a href="#">Bird, Bees and Business</a>   |
| A 1.1.4   | Promote Sustainable Land Use in agriculture and silviculture, including measures to mitigate the indirect effects of pesticides on migratory landbirds (i.e., reduction of insect prey) | <i>UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14)</i><br><i>UNEP/CMS/Resolution 13.6</i><br><i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.131 and 14.133</i> | AEML WG<br>AEML CU<br>NGOs<br><br><a href="#">Insect Decline and Its Threat to Migratory Insectivorous Animal Populations</a> (Report)<br><br>CMS group on insect decline                             |

|  |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| A 1.1.5  | Implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by designating and implementing Protected Areas PA and other effective area-based conservation measures | <i>CBD/Decisions COP15/4 &amp; 15/5</i> | AEML WG<br>NGOs                              | <a href="#">Target 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems</a><br><br><a href="#">Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas</a> |
| <b>Activities for short-term goal A 2.1: Support the development of habitat action plans</b>   |  |   |  |   |
| A 2.1.1  | Support of the 'Action plans for priority principal bird habitats in the African-Eurasian flyway' (lead: AEWA)   | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.130</i>     | AEWA<br>CMS Avian unit<br>AEML WG<br>AEML CU | <a href="#">Action plans for priority principal bird habitats in the African-Eurasian flyway</a>  |
| A.2.1.2  | Develop and implement a toolkit to identify priority habitats and conservation actions for migratory birds   | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.130</i>     | MLSG<br>AEML CU                              | <a href="#">COST action EUFLYNET</a>  |
| <b>Activities for short-term goal A 3.1: Develop synergies to improve habitat conditions for migratory landbirds with ongoing initiatives and projects</b> |  |   |  |   |
| A 3.1.1  | Advocate for biodiversity and migratory birds in ongoing habitat restoration projects  | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.131</i>     | AEML WG<br>NGOs                              | <a href="#">Great Green Wall Initiative</a><br><br><a href="#">AfriEvolve</a>   |
| A 3.1.2  | Increase synergies with international organizations like UNCCD, UNDP, FAO, IUCN to strengthen biodiversity aspects in habitat restoration projects                   | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.133</i>     | CMS Avian unit<br>AEML CU                    | <a href="#">IUCN Side Event at UNCCD COP16</a><br><br><a href="#">World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies WOCAT</a>  |
| A 3.1.3  | Increase collaboration with CBD for including flyway scale approaches for the conservation of migratory landbirds  | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.133</i>     | CMS Secretariat<br>AEML CU                   | <a href="#">Kunming Biodiversity Fund</a>   |

| <b>Activities for Strategic Field B – Species Conservation</b>                               |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Activities for short-term goal B 1.1: Support the implementation of existing CMS SAPs</b> |  |   |  |  |
| B 1.1.1  | Engage in the conservation activities for the European Turtle dove, in the framework of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the European Turtle dove ( <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> ) | <i>UNEP/CMS/STc48/Doc.18/Annex 2/Rev.1</i>                          | EU<br>FACE<br>BLI<br>AEML WG   | <a href="#">European Turtle Dove Action Plan</a>   |
| B 1.1.2  | Engage in the Action Plan for the European Roller ( <i>Coracias garrulus</i> )   | <i>UNEP/CMS/Action Plan 12.4</i>                                    | CITES<br>BirdLife Hungary<br>BirdLife South Africa<br>AEML WG        | <a href="#">European Roller Action Plan</a>  |
| B 1.1.3  | Engage in the International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of the Yellow-breasted Bunting ( <i>Emberiza aureola</i> )   | <i>UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.6.1.1</i><br><i>UNEP/CMS/Decision 13.48</i> | EAAFP<br>CAF<br>CACN (Central Asian Conservation Network)<br>AEML WG | <a href="#">Yellow-breasted Bunting Action Plan</a>  |
| B 1.1.4  | Support the Memorandum of Understanding (CMS MOU) concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler ( <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> )  | <a href="#">MOU Aquatic Warbler 2010</a>                            | LIFE4AquaticWarbler<br>AEML WG                                       | <a href="#">MOU Aquatic Warbler</a><br><br><a href="#">Life4AquaticWarbler</a>   |
| B 1.1.5  | Engage in the Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards (Bustard MsAP)   | <i>Resolution 11.17 (Rev.CMS COP14)</i>                             | Bustard Without Borders<br>AEML WG                                   | <a href="#">Bustards Without Borders</a><br><br><i>With link to the existing CMS instruments:</i><br><a href="#">MOU Middle European Population of the Great Bustard</a> and<br><a href="#">AP for the Great Bustard in Asia</a> |

|  |   |  |                                  |   |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|---|
| B 1.1.6  | Engage in key actions of the European Union EU for the conservation of migratory landbird species (e.g. common quail)   | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.130</i>          | EU<br>FACE<br>AEML WG            |   |
| <b>Activities for short-term goal B 2.1: Definition of guilds of migratory landbird species with similar needs for actions</b>                               |   |  |                                  |   |
| B 2.1.1  | Support actions to improve the conservation status of migratory buntings (see B 1.1.3)  | <i>UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14)</i> | AEML WG                          |   |
| B 2.1.2  | Evaluate multi-species Action plans for further guilds  | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.130</i>          | AEML WG<br>MLSG                  |   |
| B 2.1.3  | Revision of landbird species list (taxonomy, migratory status, prioritization for future SAPs, uplisting of species in the CMS annexes)   |  | CMS Avian Unit<br>AEML CU        | <a href="#">AviList – The Global Avian Checklist</a>  |
| <b>Activities for short-term goal B 3.1: Mitigate anthropogenic causes of mortality: e.g., unsustainable hunting, collisions, light pollution, poisoning</b> |   |  |                                  |   |
| B 3.1.1  | Promote and support activities according to the new CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for migratory species  | <i>UNEP/CMS/Resolution 13.5 (Rev.COP14)</i>  | AEML WG                          | <a href="#">International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species</a> (Guidelines)   |
| B 3.1.2  | Engage in Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (CMS MIKT) and Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East-Asian-Australasian Flyway (CMS ITTEA) | <i>UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14)</i> | MIKT<br>ITTEA<br>AEML WG         | <a href="#">Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean</a><br><br><a href="#">Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East-Asian-Australasian Flyway</a><br><br><a href="#">The South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force</a> |
| B 3.1.3  | Advocate for migratory landbirds in the CMS Energy Task Force   | <i>Resolution 11.27 (Rev. COP13)</i>         | CMS Energy Task Force<br>AEML WG | <a href="#">CMS Energy Task Force</a>   |

|         |  |  |         |   |
|---------|--|--|---------|---|
| B 3.1.4 | Advocate for migratory landbirds in initiatives and activities to Prevent Poisoning (e.g. direct mortality due to use of pesticides) | <i>UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14)</i> | AEML WG | <a href="#">Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds</a> |
|---------|--|--|---------|---|

### Activities for Strategic Field C – Research & Monitoring

#### Activities for short-term goal C 1.1: Identify species-specific migratory patterns, delineating single- and multi-species core areas in time and space

|         |   |                                     |                 |  |
|---------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| C 1.1.1 | Increase individual tracking studies of species of conservation concern | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.130</i> | MLSG<br>AEML WG | <a href="#">Movebank for animal tracking data</a>  |
| C 1.1.2 | Multi-species analyses delineating core areas and ecological networks   | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.130</i> | MLSG<br>AEML WG | <a href="#">Guilherme et al. (2023): Connectivity between countries established by landbirds and raptors migrating along the African–Eurasian flyway</a> |

#### Activities for short-term goal C 1.2: Understanding distribution patterns in time and space (monitoring projects)

|         |   |                                     |                                 |   |
|---------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| C 1.2.1 | Support the creation of ornithological structures to improve understanding of bird distribution and movement, and to foster local commitment to and understanding of nature conservation. | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.130</i> | MLSG<br>AEML WG<br>BLI          | <a href="#">DECAN Djibouti</a><br><br><a href="#">The A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI)</a>                        |
| C 1.2.2 | Engage in Bird Atlas Projects in the AEMLAP range   | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.130</i> | CAF<br>ABAP<br>EAAFP<br>AEML WG | <a href="#">African Bird Atlas Project</a><br><a href="#">European Bird Census Council</a> EBCC<br><a href="#">State of India's Birds</a> |
| C 1.2.3 | Expand the use of the Eurasian-African Bird Migration Atlas   | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.130</i> | AEML WG<br>MLSG                 | <a href="#">Eurasian African Bird Migration Atlas</a>   |
| C 1.2.4 | Develop a standardized monitoring protocol for landbirds along the flyways  |                                     | MLSG<br>AEML WG<br>BLI          | Dutch-African Landbird Initiative (DALI)  |

#### Activities for short-term goal C 2.1: Identify critical resources related to habitat and land-use changes

|   |   |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| C 2.1.1   | Identify critical resources (food, habitat, etc.) of migratory landbirds along the flyway   | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.216</i><br><i>UNEP/CMS/Resolution 13.6</i> | AEML WG<br><a href="#">MLSG</a>                   | <a href="#">Diets on the flyway</a> (EUFLYNET project) |
| <b>Activities for short-term goal C 3.1: Strengthen collaboration between AEMLAP and MLSG</b> |   |  |   |  |
| C 3.1.1   | Prioritize research activities around key conservation questions, e.g., effective actions for the protection of migratory landbirds | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.130</i>                                    | <a href="#">MLSG</a><br>AEML WG                   | <a href="#">COST action EUFLYNET</a>                   |
| C 3.1.2   | Intensify collaboration between CMS instruments (AEMLAP, MOU Raptors, AEWA) and MLSG  | <i>UNEP/CMS/Decisions COP14.130</i>                                    | CMS Avian unit<br>AEML WG<br><a href="#">MLSG</a> |  |

### Activities for Strategic Field D - Communication, Education and Public Awareness

#### Activities for short-term goal D 1.1: Increased communication with general public and key stakeholders (for ex. land owners and users, policy makers)

|         |  |  |                            |   |
|---------|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| D 1.1.1 | Create and/or maintain social media channels to strengthen communication about migratory landbird conservation |  | AEML CU<br>AEML WG<br>FLAP | <a href="#">Friends of Landbirds Action Plan - FLAP</a> |
| D 1.1.2 | Advocacy and knowledge transfer for migratory landbird conservation to important stakeholders                  |  | AEML CU<br>AEML WG<br>NGOs |   |

#### Activities for short-term goal D 2.1: Increased training via workshops/symposia, webinars, courses

|         |  |  |   |                               |
|---------|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| D 2.1.1 | Organize events and symposia with AEMLAP focus at international conferences and workshops (CMS COP, UNCCD COP, CBD COP, PAOC, IUCN, IOC, etc.) |  | AEML CU<br>AEML WG<br>CMS Secretariat<br>Other partners |                               |
| D 2.1.2 | Organize Webinars to strengthen networking and awareness for the conservation of migratory landbirds   |  | AEML WG<br>Partners<br>NGOs                             | <a href="#">Fridays4Birds</a> |

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| D 2.1.3  | Develop and organize courses about ornithology and conservation of migratory landbirds | AEML WG<br>Partners<br>NGOs                                      | Projet Ressource: Identifier et dénombrer les oiseaux d'eau d'afrique du nord et du sahel |
| <a href="#">Fundamentals of Ornithology</a>  |  |  |   |
| <b>Activities for short-term goal D 3.1: Promote international events such as World Migratory Bird Day, Global Big Day, etc.</b> |  |  |   |
| D 3.1.1  | Contribute to international events about migratory landbirds                           | <i>Res. 11.09 (Rev.COP13)</i><br><i>World Migratory Bird Day</i> | AEML WG<br>NGOs<br>BLI  |
| <a href="#">World Migratory Bird Day</a>   |  |  |   |

**Table 3. Timeline and priority levels for implementing activities under the AEML WG Programme of Work (POW) 2026–2032.**

Activities are categorized by priority: Very high (= top priorities), High, Medium.

| Activity |   | Priority  | Year |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|----------|---|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number   | Activity  |           | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | 2032 |
| A 1.1.1  | Engage in habitat restoration or conservation projects to promote evidence-based measures for biodiversity  | Very high |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A 1.1.2  | Engage in projects about sustainable resource use derived from restored habitats that enhance local livelihood  | Very high |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A 1.1.3  | Engage in projects integrating naturally generated products from restored and improved habitats in economically relevant value chains   | Medium    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A 1.1.4  | Promote Sustainable Land Use in agriculture and silviculture, including measures to mitigate the indirect effects of pesticides on migratory landbirds (i.e., reduction of insect prey)   | High      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A 1.1.5  | Implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by designating and implementing Protected Areas PA and other effective area-based conservation measures  | High      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A 2.1.1  | Support of the 'Action plans for priority principal bird habitats in the African-Eurasian flyway' (lead AEWA)   | Medium    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A 2.1.2  | Develop and implement a toolkit to identify priority habitats and conservation actions for migratory birds  | High      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A 3.1.1  | Advocate for biodiversity and migratory birds in ongoing habitat restoration projects   | Very high |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A 3.1.2  | Increase synergies with international organizations like UNCCD, UNDP, FAO, IUCN to strengthen biodiversity aspects in habitat restoration projects  | Very high |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| A 3.1.3  | Increase collaboration with CBD for including flyway scale approaches for the conservation of migratory landbirds   | Medium    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B 1.1.1  | Engage in the conservation activities for the European Turtle dove, in the framework of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the European Turtle dove ( <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> ), 2018-2028 | Medium    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| B 1.1.2  | Engage in the Action Plan for the European Roller ( <i>Coracias garrulus</i> ), 2017-2027   | Medium    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |

|          |   |        |  |
|----------|---|--------|--|
| B 1.1.3  | Engage in the International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of the Yellow-breasted Bunting ( <i>Emberiza aureola</i> )  | High   |  |
| B 1.1.4  | Support the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler ( <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> )   | Medium |  |
| B 1.1.5  | Engage in the Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards (Bustards MsAP)   | High   |  |
| B 1.1.6  | Engage in key actions of the EU for the conservation of migratory landbird species (i.e. common quail)  | Medium |  |
| B 2.1.1  | Support actions to improve the conservation status of migratory buntings (see B 1.1.3)  | High   |  |
| B 2.1.2  | Evaluate multi-species APs for further guilds   | Medium |  |
| B 2.1.3  | Revision of landbird species list (taxonomy, migratory status, prioritization for future SAPs, uplisting of species in the CMS annexes)   | Medium |  |
| B 3.1.1  | Promote and support activities according to the new CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for migratory species  | Medium |  |
| B 3.1.2  | Engage in Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (CMS MIKT) and Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East-Asian-Australasian Flyway (CMS ITTEA) | Medium |  |
| B 3.1.3  | Advocate for migratory landbirds in the CMS Energy Task Force   | Medium |  |
| B 3.1.4  | Advocate for migratory landbirds in initiatives and activities to Prevent Poisoning (e.g. direct mortality due to use of pesticides)  | Medium |  |
| C 1.1.1  | Increase individual tracking studies of species of conservation concern   | Medium |  |
| C 1.1.2  | Multi-species analyses delineating core areas and ecological networks   | High   |  |
| C 1.2.1  | Support the creation of ornithological structures to improve the understanding of bird distributions and movements and local commitment and understanding for nature conservation   | High   |  |
| C 1.2.2. | Engage in Bird Atlas Projects in the AEMLAP range   | High   |  |
| C 1.2.3  | Use the Eurasian-African Bird Migration Atlas   | Medium |  |
| C 1.2.4  | Develop a standardized monitoring protocol for landbirds along the flyways  | Medium |  |

|         |   |           |  |
|---------|---|-----------|--|
| C 2.1.1 | Identify critical food resources of migratory landbirds   | Medium    |  |
| C 3.1.1 | Participate in the COST-project EUFLYNET  | Medium    |  |
| C 3.1.2 | Intensify collaboration between CMS instruments (AEMLAP, MOU Raptors, AEWA) and MLSG  | Medium    |  |
| D 1.1.1 | Create and/or maintain social media channels to strengthen communication about migratory landbird conservation                                | High      |  |
| D 1.1.2 | Advocacy and knowledge transfer for migratory landbird conservation to important stakeholders   | Very High |  |
| D 2.1.1 | Organize events and symposia with AEMLAP focus at international conferences and workshops (i.e. CMS COP, UNCCD COP, CBD COP, PAOC, IUCN, IOC) | Medium    |  |
| D 2.1.2 | Organizing Webinars to strengthen networking and awareness for the conservation of migratory birds  | High      |  |
| D 2.1.3 | Developing and organizing courses about ornithology and conservation of migratory birds   | High      |  |
| D 3.1.1 | Contribute to international events about migratory landbirds  | Medium    |  |

**Table 4. Indicative total budget estimate (in €) for the development and coordination of activities identified in the AEML WG Programme of Work (POW) for the seven-year period (2026–2032).**

This estimate serves as a guiding reference for fundraising efforts and donor engagement to support the implementation of AEMLAP. At present, no dedicated funding has been secured for these activities; efforts are ongoing to engage donors and partners in supporting this work.

Note: This budget does not include the work of the Coordination Unit at the Swiss Ornithological Institute, which is estimated at € 70,000 per year, i.e., € 490,000 for the period 2026-2032.

| Number  | Activity   | Indicative costs for project development and coordination (in €) |
|---------|--|--|
| A 1.1.1 | Engage in habitat restoration or conservation projects to promote evidence-based measures for biodiversity   | 294'000  |
| A 1.1.2 | Engage in projects about sustainable resource use derived from restored habitats that enhance local livelihood   | 70'000   |
| A 1.1.3 | Engage in projects integrating naturally generated products from restored and improved habitats in economically relevant value chains  | 35'000   |
| A 1.1.4 | Promote Sustainable Land Use in agriculture and silviculture, including measures to mitigate the indirect effects of pesticides on migratory landbirds (i.e., reduction of insect prey)                              | 49'000   |
| A 1.1.5 | Implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by designating and implementing Protected Areas PA and other effective area-based conservation measures   | 56'000   |
| A 2.1.1 | Support of the 'Action plans for priority principal bird habitats in the African-Eurasian flyway' (lead AEWA)  | 21'000   |
| A 2.1.2 | Develop and implement a toolkit to identify priority habitats and conservation actions for migratory birds   | 21'000   |
| A 3.1.1 | Advocate for biodiversity and migratory birds in ongoing habitat restoration projects  | 14'000   |
| A 3.1.2 | Increase synergies with international organizations like UNCCD, UNDP, FAO, IUCN to strengthen biodiversity aspects in habitat restoration projects   | 49'000   |
| A 3.1.3 | Increase collaboration with CBD for including flyway scale approaches for the conservation of migratory landbirds  | 21'000   |
| B 1.1.1 | Engage in the conservation activities for the European Turtle dove, in the framework of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the European Turtle dove ( <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> ) | 21'000   |
| B 1.1.2 | Engage in the Action Plan for the European Roller ( <i>Coracias garrulus</i> )   | 21'000   |
| B 1.1.3 | Engage in the International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of the Yellow-breasted Bunting ( <i>Emberiza aureola</i> )   | 28'000   |
| B 1.1.4 | Support the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler ( <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> )  | 14'000   |

|          |   |        |
|----------|---|--------|
| B 1.1.5  | Engage in the Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards (Bustards MsAP)   | 56'000 |
| B 1.1.6  | Engage in key actions of the EU for the conservation of migratory landbird species (i.e. common quail)  | 14'000 |
| B 2.1.1  | Support actions to improve the conservation status of migratory buntings (see B 1.1.3)  | 14'000 |
| B 2.1.2  | Evaluate multi-species APs for further guilds   | 14'000 |
| B 2.1.3  | Revision of landbird species list (taxonomy, migratory status, prioritization for future SAPs, uplisting of species in the CMS annexes)   | 14'000 |
| B 3.1.1  | Promote and support activities according to the new CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for migratory species  | 21'000 |
| B 3.1.2  | Engage in Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (CMS MIKT) and Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East-Asian-Australasian Flyway (CMS ITTEA) | 28'000 |
| B 3.1.3  | Engage in the CMS Energy Task Force   | 21'000 |
| B 3.1.4  | Engage in initiatives and activities to Prevent Poisoning   | 35'000 |
| C 1.1.1  | Increase individual tracking studies of species of conservation concern   | 7'000  |
| C 1.1.2  | Multi-species analyses delineating core areas and ecological networks   | 28'000 |
| C 1.2.1  | Support the creation of ornithological structures to improve the understanding of bird distributions and movements and local commitment and understanding for nature conservation   | 42'000 |
| C 1.2.2. | Engage in Bird Atlas Projects in the AEMLAP range   | 84'000 |
| C 1.2.3  | Use the Eurasian-African Bird Migration Atlas   | 14'000 |
| C 1.2.4  | Develop a standardized monitoring protocol for landbirds along the flyways  | 28'000 |
| C 2.1.1  | Identify critical food resources of migratory landbirds   | 14'000 |
| C 3.1.1  | Participate in the COST-project EUFLYNET  | 28'000 |
| C 3.1.2  | Intensify collaboration between CMS instruments (AEMLAP, MOU Raptors, AEWA) and MLSG  | 28'000 |
| D 1.1.1  | Create and/or maintain social media channels to strengthen communication about migratory landbird conservation  | 42'000 |
| D 1.1.2  | Advocacy and knowledge transfer for migratory landbird conservation to important stakeholders   | 70'000 |
| D 2.1.1  | Organize events and symposia with AEMLAP focus at international conferences and workshops (i.e. CMS COP, UNCCD COP, CBD COP, PAOC, IUCN, IOC)   | 35'000 |
| D 2.1.2  | Organizing Webinars to strengthen networking and awareness for the conservation of migratory birds  | 21'000 |
| D 2.1.3  | Developing and organizing courses about ornithology and conservation of migratory birds   | 28'000 |

|              |  |                  |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| D 3.1.1      | Contribute to international events about migratory landbirds | 10'500           |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>1'410'500</b> |

## ANNEX

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***Table 5. Indicators, means of verification, and potential risks associated with the goals of the four strategic fields of the AEML WG Programme of Work (POW) 2026-2032.***

| Strategic Field  |  | Indicators  | Verification  | Risks |
|--|--|---|---|-------|
| <b>A - Habitat conservation.</b>                                 |  |   |   |       |
| <b>Long-term Goal: Improved habitats for migratory landbirds</b> |  |   |   |       |
| A 1  | Mid-term Goal:<br>Large-scale implementation, including through policy, of convincing approaches to maintain and improve habitat quality for migratory birds and sustainable livelihoods | I. Improved habitats<br>II. Benefits to local communities<br>III. Policy changes                              | I. Maps, reports, remote sensing data<br>II. Questionnaires, statistics<br>III. Policies in place |       |
| A 1.1  | Short-term Goal:<br>Demonstrate the importance of measures to improve native habitat quality for migratory birds and sustainable livelihoods   | I. Implemented measures<br>II. Estimated effect on migratory landbirds<br>III. Estimated effect on livelihood | I. Reports<br>II. Monitoring projects & scientific studies<br>III. Questionnaires & statistics    |       |
| A 2  | Mid-term Goal:<br>Combine habitat action plans and SAPs  | I. Definition / launch of new projects of complimentary themes<br>II. Synergies among existing projects       | I. Project proposals to CMS<br>II. Project proposals to CMS                                       |       |
| A 2.1  | Short-term Goal:<br>Support the development of habitat action plans  | I. Co-developed habitat APs   | I. Report, proposals  |       |
| A 3  | Mid-term Goal:<br>Optimise large scale projects for the benefits of birds, biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods  | I. Proposed large-scale measures<br>II. Implemented large-scale measures                                      | I. Project proposals<br>II. Project actions   |       |

| Strategic Field   | Indicators  | Verification                             | Risks |
|---|---|--|-------|
| A 3.1 Short-term Goal:<br>Develop synergies to improve habitat conditions for migratory landbirds with ongoing initiatives and projects | I. Analysis of synergies with existing projects<br>II. Criteria for interventions | I. Project report<br>II. Set of criteria |       |

| <b>B - Species conservation.</b>  |  |                   |  |                   |   |   |
|---|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|---|---|
| <b>Long-term Goal: Improved conservation status of landbird species</b> |  |                   |  |                   |   |   |
| B 1   | Mid-term Goal:<br>Reverse negative population trends in these SAP-species  | III.              | Population trend and distribution  | III.              | Ongoing monitoring schemes  | Insufficient funding situation of monitoring schemes  |
| B 1.1   | Short-term Goal:<br>Support the implementation of existing CMS SAPs  | I.<br>II.<br>III. | International SAP working groups established with coordinators<br>Actions along flyway<br>Changes in legislation (e.g., sustainable hunting) | I.<br>II.<br>III. | Reports and scientific publications<br>Changes in national or international legislation and policies<br>National Reporting to CMS | Insufficient funding of SAPs (coordination and implementation)<br>Limited law enforcement<br>Limited monitoring of policy implementation (e.g., Agri-Environmental Schemes) |
| B 2   | Mid-term Goal:<br>Develop and implement Multi-species Action Plans   | I.                | New 'multi-species APs'  | I.                | 'Guild APs' elaborated and submitted to CMS for adoption by COP   | Insufficient funding and capacity   |
| B 2.1   | Short-term Goal:<br>Definition of guilds of migratory landbird species with similar needs for actions                    | I.<br>II.         | Analysis of AEMLAP species list<br>Proposed 'Guild APs'  | I. & II.          | Concept of 'Guild APs'  | Insufficient funding  |
| B 3   | Mid-term Goal:<br>Implemented tangible solutions to minimize anthropogenic causes of mortality                           | I.<br>II.         | Engagement with MIKT and other IKB Task Forces<br>Engagement with CMS Energy Task Force  | I.<br>II.<br>III. | Reports<br>Impact studies and reports<br>National reports to CMS  | Insufficient funding<br>Lack of national initiatives  |
| B 3.1   | Short-term Goal:<br>Mitigate anthropogenic causes of mortality: e.g., unsustainable hunting, collisions, light pollution | I.<br>II.         | Promotion of measures along the flyway<br>Promotion of changes in legislation (e.g., sustainable hunting)                                    | I.<br>II.<br>III. | Report & law enforcement<br>Reports by already existing working groups  | Lack of national initiatives  |

|   |  |                   |  |            |  |
|---|--|-------------------|--|------------|--|
|   |  | i.                | Assessment of anthropogenic causes of mortality along the flyway   |            |  |
| <b>C – Research &amp; Monitoring.</b>   |  |                   |  |            |  |
| <b>Long-term Goal: Evidence-based findings for the application of conservation measures for migratory landbirds along the flyways</b> |  |                   |  |            |  |
| C 1   | Mid-term Goal:<br>Delineating habitat-specific core areas in time and space (conservation planning)                                  | I.                | # of identified habitat-specific core areas  | I.         | Map of single- and multi-species core areas<br>Insufficient funding and / or capacity  |
| C 1.1   | Short-term Goal:<br>Identify species-specific migratory patterns, delineating single- and multi-species core areas in time and space | I.<br>II.         | # of study species<br># of identified single- and multi-species core areas   | I.<br>II.  | # of published studies & Movebank database (DB)<br>Map of single- and multi-species core areas<br>Insufficient funding and / or capacity<br>Limited access to data |
| C 1.2   | Short-term Goal:<br>Understanding distribution patterns in time and space (monitoring projects)                                      | I.<br>II.         | Countries with monitoring projects<br>Ongoing national and international atlas projects                                  | I.<br>III. | # of ongoing projects and amount of recorded data<br>Ongoing atlas projects  |
| C 2   | Mid-term Goal:<br>Defining conservation measures to promote critical resources   | I.<br>II.<br>III. | Identified critical resources<br>Identification of conservation measures<br>Opportunities for implementation (upscaling) | I. to III. | Reports  |
| C 2.1   | Short-term Goal:<br>Identify critical resources related to habitat and land-use changes  | I.<br>II.         | Studied species<br>Habitats and land-use types   | I. & II.   | Proposals, reports and publications<br>Insufficient funding  |
| C 3   | Mid-term Goal:<br>Integration of AEMLAP topics in MLSG projects  | IV.               | AEMLAP-relevant studies  | I.         | # of proposals, reports and publications   |

|       |  |    |                    |     |                     |
|-------|--|----|--------------------|-----|---------------------|
| C 3.1 | Short-term Goal:<br>Strengthening collaboration between<br>AEMLAP and MLSG | I. | # of meetings      | I.  | # of protocols      |
|       |  | V. | # of common topics | II. | # of collaborations |

| <b>D – Communication, Education and Public Awareness.</b>                           |   |      |   |      |  |                      |
|---|---|------|---|------|--|----------------------|
| <b>Long-term Goal: Raised awareness for the conservation of migratory landbirds</b> |   |      |   |      |  |                      |
| D 1   | Mid-term Goal:<br>Increased support for AEMLAP actions  | I.   | Increased commitment of range states and scientific community | I.   | Range state involvement and financial support                |                      |
| D 1.1   | Short-term Goal:<br>Increased communication with general public and key stakeholders                    | I.   | Reactivated social media-channels and website                 | I.   | Defined responsibilities                                     | Insufficient funding |
|   |   | II.  | Regular posts and actualized web-content                      | II.  | Number of posts  |                      |
|   |   | III. | New followers   | III. | Number of followers  |                      |
| D 2   | Mid-term Goal:<br>Integration of AEMLAP-relevant topics in (citizen)science and application             | I.   | Visibility of AEMLAP-topics in science and application        |      |  |                      |
| D 2.1   | Short-term Goal:<br>Increased training via workshops/symposia, webinars, courses                        | II.  | Contributions at international conferences and workshops      | I.   | Conference/workshop proceedings and talks, symposia, posters |                      |
| D 3   | Mid-term Goal:<br>Concerted public awareness events at AEMLAP flyway scale                              | I.   | Implementation of concept                                     | I.   | Press releases   |                      |
| D 3.1   | Short-term Goal:<br>Promote international events such as World Migratory Bird Day, Global Big Day, etc. | I.   | Defined priorities for media work                             | I.   | Concept  | Insufficient funding |

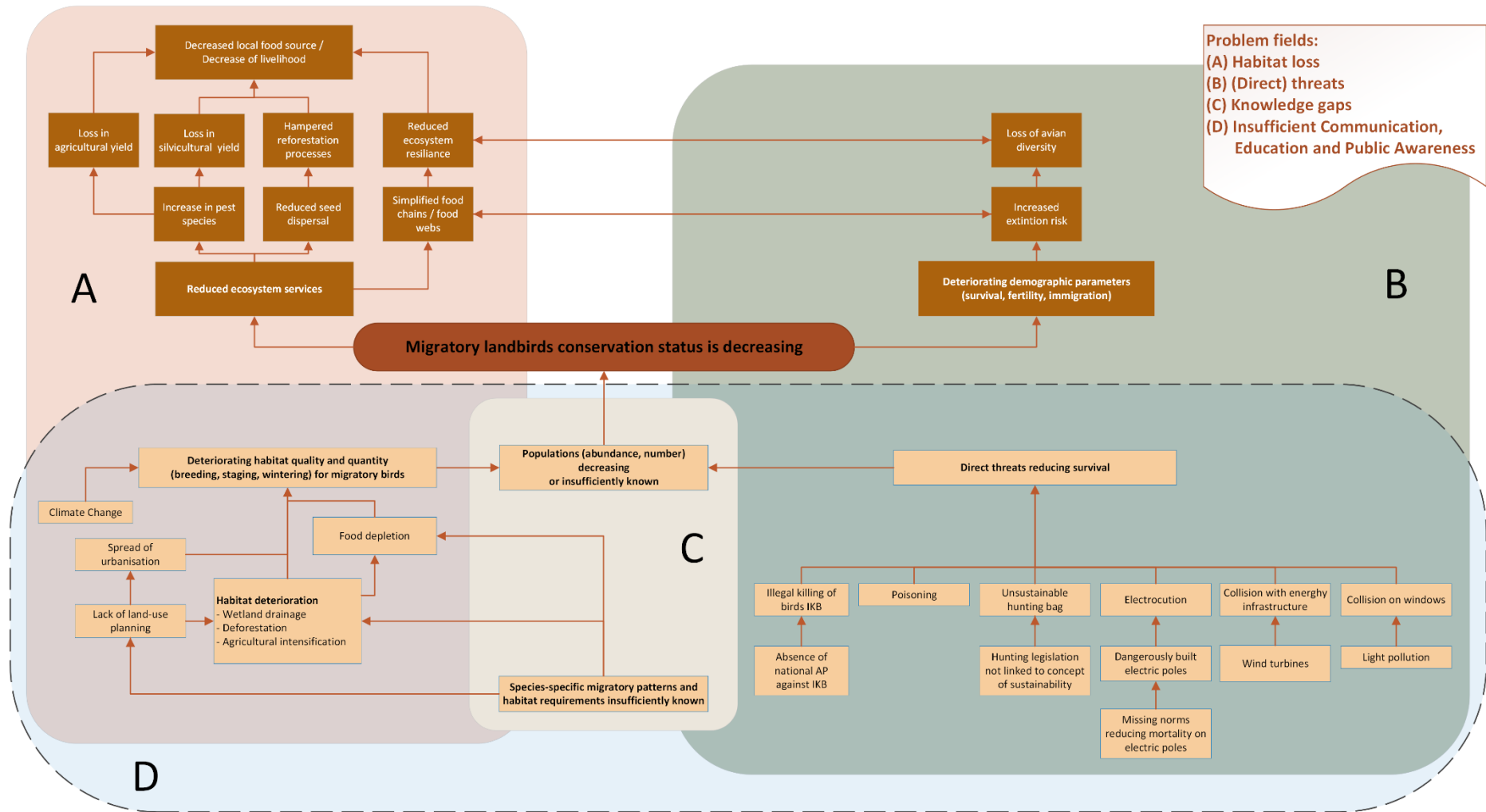
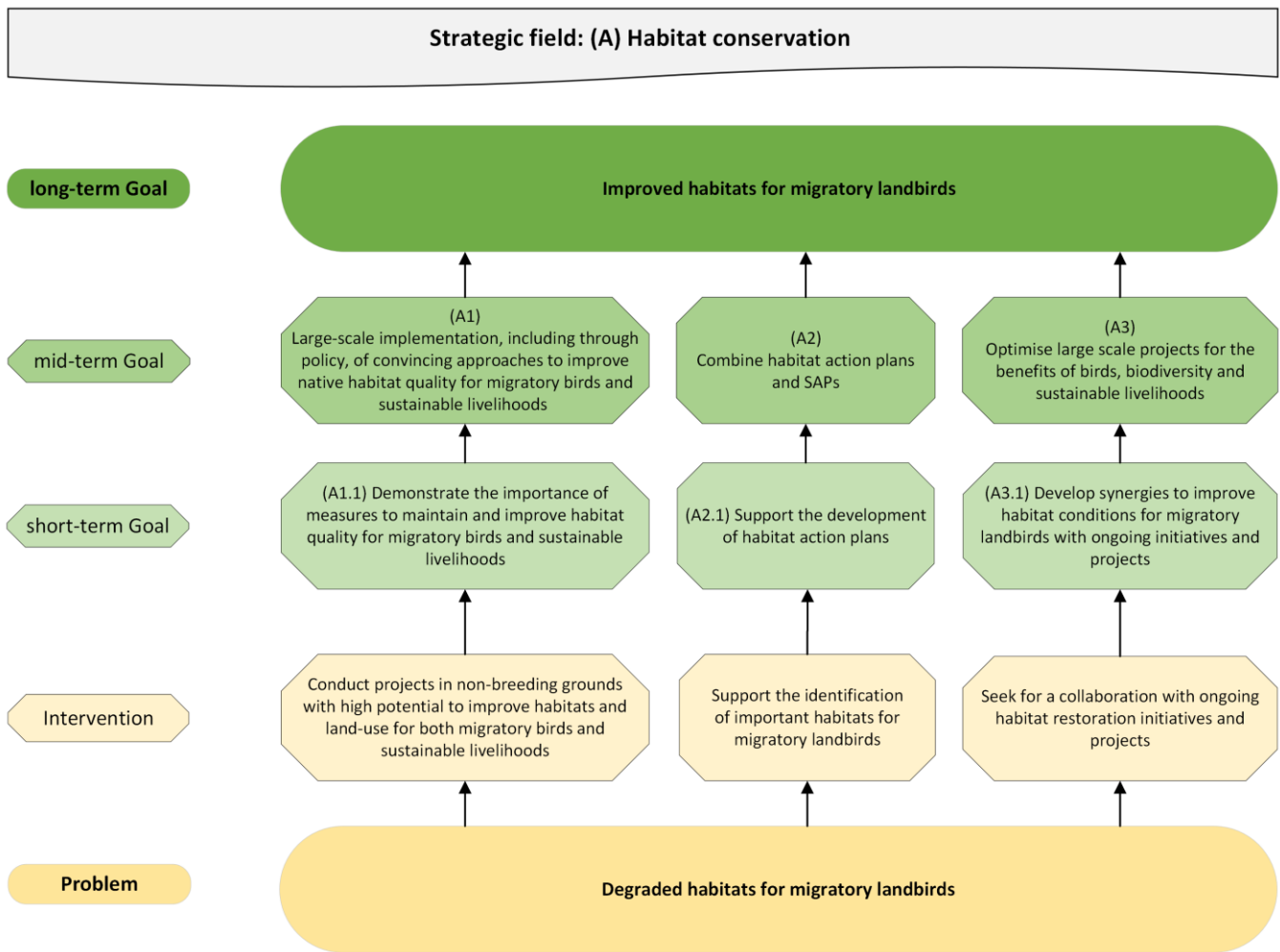
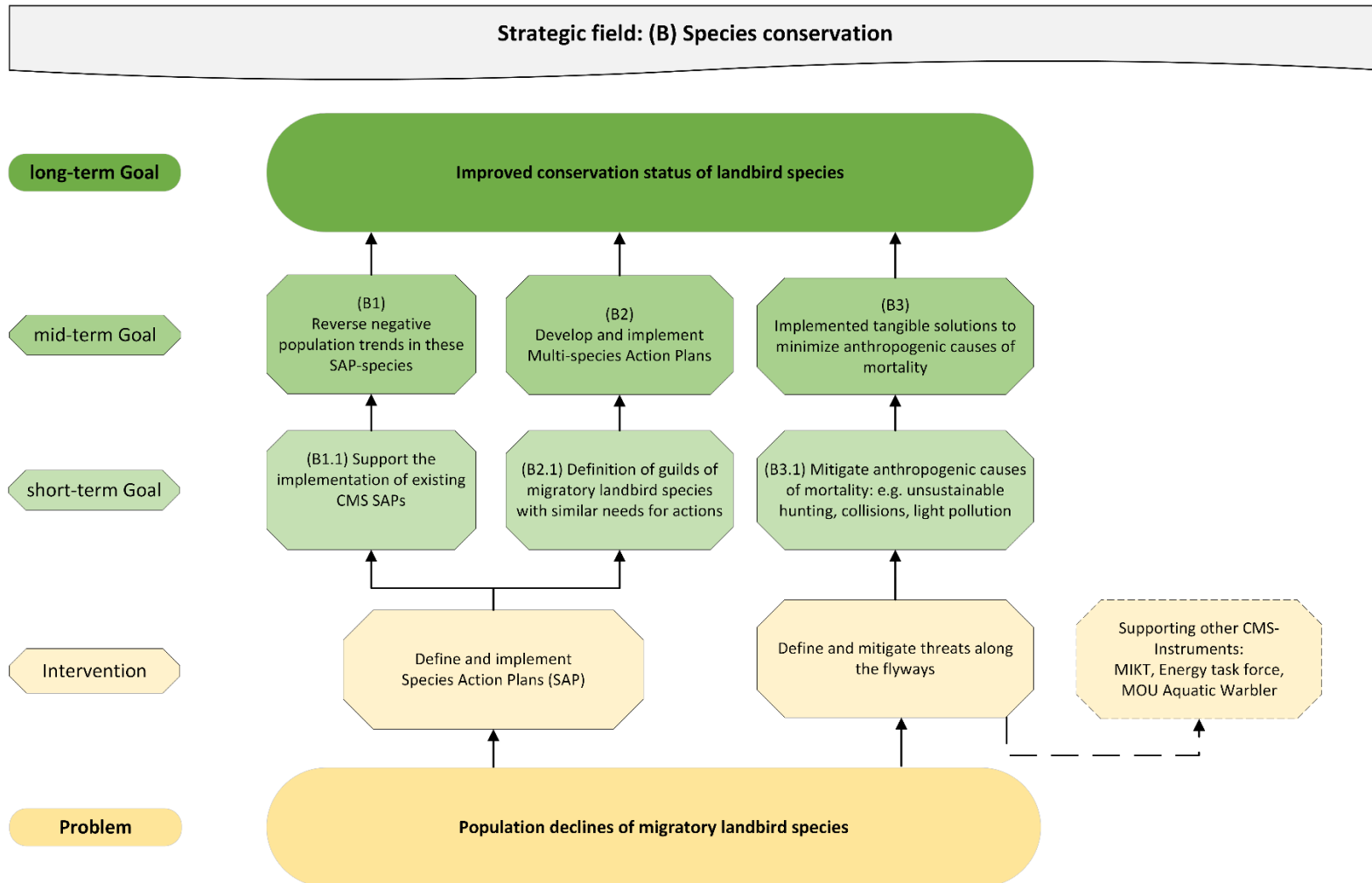


Figure 3. Problem tree. Coloured boxes A to D highlight the problem fields on which the AEML WG POW 2026-2032 was built.



**Figure 4. Long-, mid-, and short-term goals for the strategic field “A - Habitat conservation”.**



**Figure 5. Long-, mid-, and short-term goals for the strategic field “B - Species Conservation”. The box with the dashed frame indicates support of another existing CMS instrument.**

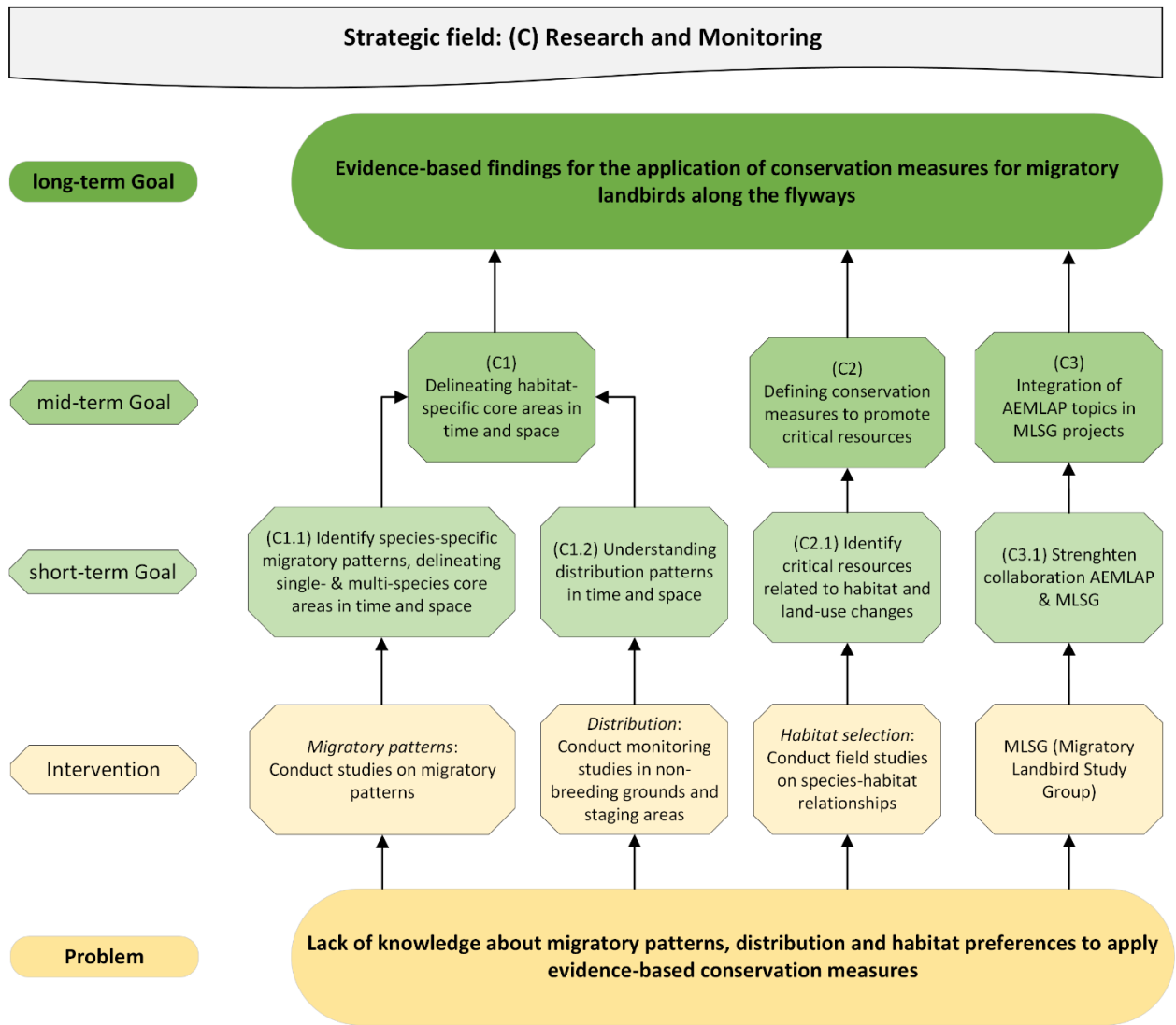
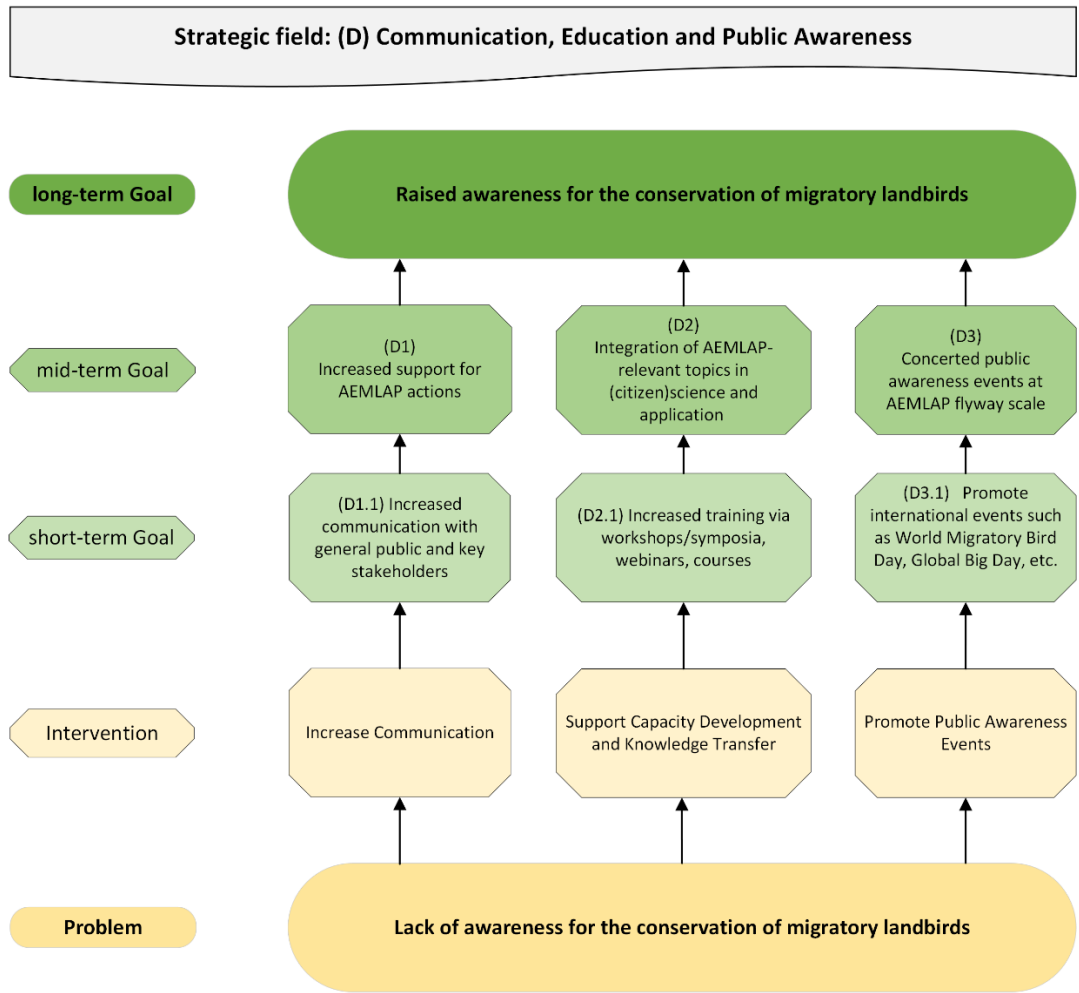


Figure 6. Long-, mid-, and short-term goals for the strategic field “C - Research and Monitoring”.



**Figure 7. Long-, mid-, and short-term goals for the strategic field “D - Communication, Education and Public Awareness”.**