



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
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Agenda Item 26.1

ACTION PLANS FOR BIRDS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document reports on progress to implement Resolution 12.12 *Action Plans for Birds* and the related Decisions 12.20 and 12.21 *Action Plans for Birds*, and on the finalization of the Action Plans for the European Turtle Dove, Yellow-breasted Bunting, White-headed Duck and Dalmatian Pelican. It proposes the renewal of the relevant Decision authorizing the intersessional adoption of the Action Plan for the Yellow-breasted Bunting through the Standing Committee.

ACTION PLANS FOR BIRDS

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting (COP12, Manila, 2017) adopted Decisions 12.20 – 12.21 [Action Plans for Birds](#), which read as follows:

12.20 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *bring the action plans to the attention of all Range States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, invite those Range States that are not yet Parties to ratify or accede to the Convention (or at least support the relevant action plan), and monitor the implementation of these action plans during the intersessional period up to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*
- b) *coordinate with the Secretariat of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) for the implementation of the Baer's Pochard and Far Eastern Curlew Action Plans during the intersessional period up to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

12.21 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is authorized to adopt the European Turtle Dove, Yellow-breasted Bunting, White-headed Duck and Dalmatian Pelican Action Plans, once finalized, in the intersessional period between the 12th and 13th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Through Resolution 12.12 Action Plans for Birds, COP12 adopted action plans for the Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*), Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) and European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), and a number of actions related to their implementation by both Parties and non-Parties. COP12 also noted the development of Action Plans for the European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*), White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*).

Activities to Implement Resolution 12.12 and Decisions 12.20-12.21

Finalization and adoption processes of action plans since COP12

3. The International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs) for the European Turtle Dove, White-headed Duck and Dalmatian Pelican were prepared in the framework of the EuroSAP (LIFE14 PRE/UK/000002) LIFE preparatory project, coordinated by BirdLife International and co-financed by the European Commission Directorate General for the Environment and the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (UNEP/AEWA), through a grant by the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea of Italy. The nominate subspecies of the European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur turtur*) is listed in Appendix II of CMS. The White-headed Duck and the Dalmatian Pelican are both listed in Appendix I and II of CMS.
4. The drafts of the three action plans for the European Turtle Dove, White-headed Duck and Dalmatian Pelican went through rigorous consultations with experts and government officials of the Range States of the species. The Secretariat reported on details of the development processes and adoption of each of these action plans by Range States of the European Union (EU) in Document [UNEP/CMS/StC48/Doc.18](#). The Secretariat attended the presentation and discussions on these action plans at the *Eyes on the Flyways Conference*, held in Brussels on 24 May 2018. The final drafts of all three action plans were adopted by the 48th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee. The Action Plan for the European Turtle Dove was approved with the caveat of a disclaimer reflecting the reservations of some Range States within the EU on

a proposed temporary hunting moratorium for the European Turtle Dove. The Action Plans for the White-headed Duck and for the Dalmatian Pelican were also adopted by the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA, held on 4-8 December 2018, in Durban, South Africa.

5. The Action Plan for the Dalmatian Pelican was also adopted by the 10th Meeting of Partners of East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP MOP10), held on 10-14 December 2018 in Changjiang City, Hainan Island, China.
6. After a planning workshop that took place in November 2016 in China, further work was undertaken with respect to the development of the Action Plan for the Yellow-breasted Bunting, including on its scientific elements, along with a comprehensive and rigorous consultation process. The action plan has not been finalized at the time of writing of this report. In consequence, the Secretariat recommends to the Conference of the Parties to renew Decision 12.21 including the proposed amendments, i.e. to authorize the Standing Committee to adopt the Action Plan for the Yellow-breasted Bunting, once finalized, in the intersessional period between the 13th and 14th Meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat is monitoring the development and finalization process for this action plan.

Publication of action plans

7. The action plans adopted by COP have been made available only in English for the time being. Versions in French and Spanish will follow pending the availability of resources. The action plans will also be published in the *CMS-AEWA Technical Series*. The adopted versions have been made available on the CMS website:

[*Action Plan for the Baer's Pochard;*](#)
[*Action Plan for the Far Eastern Curlew;*](#)
[*Action Plan for the European Roller;*](#)
[*Action Plan for the White-headed Duck;*](#)
[*Action Plan for the European Turtle Dove;*](#)
[*Action Plan for the Dalmatian Pelican.*](#)

Support for implementation and monitoring of action plans

8. The CMS Secretariat supported and monitored the implementation of the action plans adopted by COP12 in the inter-sessional period, in coordination with Range States and relevant international frameworks and organizations, in particular with the AEWA Secretariat and with the Secretariat of the EAAFP, in line with Decision 12.20. The CMS Secretariat also undertook efforts to encourage accession to the Convention of non-Party Range States and support for relevant action plans and initiatives.

Action Plans under CMS, AEWA and EAAFP - Baer's Pochard, Far Eastern Curlew and Dalmatian Pelican

9. In 2015, the Baer's Pochard Task Force was established under the EAAFP. In order to promote the implementation of the Action Plan for the Baer's Pochard, an international workshop on Baer's Pochard conservation was held on 19-20 March 2018 at Hengshui Lake Nature Reserve, hosted by Beijing Forestry University, Hengshui Municipal Government, organized by Hengshui Lake National Nature Reserve, School of Nature Conservation, Beijing Forestry University and Hengshui University and supported by the State Forestry Administration of China, China Wildlife Conservation Association and the Forestry Department of Hebei Province. The EAAFP Baer's Pochard Task Force, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the China office of Wetlands International were co-organizers of the meeting. Representatives from key Range States within the flyway - Bangladesh, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Japan, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea and Thailand attended the workshop. Specifically, delegates discussed the status of the Baer's Pochard, its conservation needs and threats across the range countries, the

identification of information gaps, research and conservation priorities and the development of national action plans. As an output of the workshop, further refinement and promotion of the activities identified in the Action Plan as well as commitments for its implementation were summarized in the [Hengshui Declaration](#).

10. The CMS Secretariat was represented at EAAFP MOP10, promoting the establishment of the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (ITTEA), which is proposed to complement and collaborate with the already existing Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds in the EAAF (see also Document UNEP/CMS/COP13/26.1.1 *Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*). Addressing the issue of illegal killing and taking is of particular importance for the successful implementation of the Action Plans for the Baer's Pochard and the Far Eastern Curlew.
11. Since the EAAFP MOP10, the CMS Secretariat has been part of the Management Committee of the EAAFP. Participation includes the review of documents developed under the EAAFP such as the work plan of the EAAFP Technical Sub-Committee, with relevance to the action plans adopted under both CMS and EAAFP.
12. In order to support the implementation of the Action Plan for the Dalmatian Pelican with regard to its sub-population in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, an EAAFP Dalmatian Pelican Task Force was established at the *International Consultancy Meeting on the Conservation Strategy for the Dalmatian Pelican in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway*, held on 17-18 July 2019 in Khovd Province, Mongolia, hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, the Government Office of Khovd Province, Khar Us Lake National Park, and the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia, and co-organized by Khovd University, with support from the EAAFP Secretariat, World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) Mongolia and WWF China. The meeting discussed the information on the population status of the species in each Range State, threats, conservation actions and implementation plans for the Dalmatian Pelican in East Asia and Mongolia.
13. Thanks to voluntary contributions received from the Government of Australia, in September 2019, the CMS Secretariat concluded a small-scale funding agreement with BirdsRussia, a non-governmental not-for-profit organization as implementing partner in order to provide matching funds for the implementation of the project *Assessing the extent of the impact of hunting on the shorebird populations in Kamchatka using questionnaire methods*. The research will deliver on components of the Action Plan for the Far Eastern Curlew and aligns with the priorities of addressing the illegal hunting, taking and trade of waterbirds in the EAAF, and will be informative for the process of the ITTEA Task Force.

Action Plans under CMS and AEWA - White-headed Duck and Dalmatian Pelican

14. The mechanism under AEWA is the leading process supporting the implementation of the Action Plans for White-headed Duck and the Dalmatian Pelican. The AEWA Secretariat convenes working groups to oversee implementation of each action plan and supports their coordination. A working group for the White-headed Duck Action Plan already existed before the revision of the action plan. With regard to the Action Plan for the Dalmatian Pelican, the AEWA Secretariat is currently in search for a coordinator. Upon appointment of a coordinator, the working group will be convened. The CMS Secretariat is in continuous liaison with the AEWA Secretariat with regard to the monitoring of the implementation of these action plans.

Action Plans under CMS – European Roller and European Turtle Dove

15. In conjunction with the activities of the Working Group on Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (the Landbirds Working Group) and its steering group, the CMS Secretariat has been promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Action Plans for the European Roller and the European Turtle Dove. Some members of the Landbirds Working Group are

participating in the International Turtle Dove Study Group, which provides an additional mechanism for promoting implementation of the latter. For details on the Landbirds Working Group, see also Document UNEP/CMS/COP13/26.1.2 *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)*.

Recommended actions

16. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) adopt the draft amendments to Resolution 12.12 contained in Annex 1 of this document;
 - b) adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 2 of this document that amend Decisions 12.20 and 12.21.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 12.12

NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~.

ACTION PLANS FOR BIRDS

Recalling Resolution 11.14¹ ~~on a Programme of Work for Migratory Birds and Flyways~~, which recommends the development, adoption and implementation of species action plans for priority species in line with CMS priorities for Concerted and Cooperative Action, including the Yellow-breasted Bunting, Baer's Pochard and Far Eastern Curlew,

Further recalling Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP12) ~~on an Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region~~, which requests the Landbirds Working Group and the Scientific Council, with the support of the CMS Secretariat, to develop as an emerging issue Action Plans for the Yellow-breasted Bunting, European Turtle Dove and European Roller,

Noting that the Far Eastern Curlew was designated for Concerted Actions during 2015-2017 through Resolution 11.13² on Concerted and Cooperative Actions,

Further noting that the Baer's Pochard Action Plan was adopted by the 8th Meeting of Partners of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) in Japan in 2015; ~~and that the Far Eastern Curlew Action Plan was adopted by the 9th Meeting of Partners of EAAFP in Singapore in 2017, that the Dalmatian Pelican Action Plan was adopted by the 10th Meeting of Partners of EAAFP in Changjiang, China in 2018, and that the Action Plans for the White-headed Duck and for the Dalmatian Pelican were adopted by the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) in Durban, South Africa, in 2018.~~

Further noting the EuroSAP project, sponsored by the European Commission and coordinated by BirdLife International, under which ~~two additional the action plans, for the European Turtle Dove, for the Dalmatian Pelican and for the White-headed Duck, are being developed and will be~~ will be finalized in early 2018,

Additionally noting that the CMS Standing Committee adopted the action plans for the European Turtle Dove, White-headed Duck and Dalmatian Pelican at its 48th meeting, and

Acknowledging the progress made in the development of the Action Plan for the Yellow-breasted Bunting, including the sound scientific and participatory process towards its successful finalization and implementation,

Thanking the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) for their leadership in the development of the Baer's Pochard Action Plan; Australia for the Far Eastern Curlew Action Plan; BirdLife International for the Yellow-breasted Bunting, European Turtle Dove and European Roller Action Plans, and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and BirdLife International for the Dalmatian Pelican and White-headed Duck Action Plans,

Acknowledging the financial contributions provided by Australia to the Far Eastern Curlew Action Plan; by BirdLife International to the Yellow-breasted Bunting Action Plan; by the European Union for the European Turtle Dove and European Roller Action Plans, and by the European Union and AEWA through a grant from Italy for the Dalmatian Pelican and the White-headed Duck Action Plans,

¹ Now consolidated in Resolution 12.11 *Flyways*

² Now consolidated in Resolution 12.28 *Concerted Actions*

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

1. *Adopts* the following species action plans as submitted to COP12: ~~in documents:~~
 - UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.1.7.- Action Plan for the Far Eastern Curlew;
 - UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.1.8.- Action Plan for the Baer's Pochard;
 - UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.1.9.- Action Plan for the European Roller;

2. *Acknowledges* the adoption of the Action Plans for the White-headed Duck, the European Turtle Dove and the Dalmatian Pelican by the 48th Meeting of the Standing Committee, as submitted in documents, pursuant to its mandate from the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
 - UNEP/CMS/StC48/Doc.18 Adoption of Bird Species Action Plans:
 - UNEP/CMS/StC48/Doc.18/Annex 1 International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-headed Duck;
 - UNEP/CMS/StC48/Doc.18/Annex 2/Rev.1 International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the European Turtle Dove;
 - UNEP/CMS/StC48/Doc.18/Annex 3 International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican.

3. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Party Range States to implement relevant provisions of all of the action plans for birds that have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties to date;

4. *Encourages* other Parties to provide technical and/or financial support to activities outlined in the action plans;

5. *Requests* Parties to report on progress in the implementation of the action plans at each COP meeting of the Conference of the Parties via their national reports, including with regard to the Yellow-breasted Bunting Action Plan upon its finalization.

DRAFT DECISIONS

NB: Proposed new text to Decisions originating from COP12 is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~.

Directed to the Secretariat

13.AA (12.20) The Secretariat shall:

- a) bring the action plans to the attention of all Range States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, invite those Range States that are not yet Parties to ratify or accede to the Convention (or at least support the relevant action plan), and monitor the implementation of these action plans during the intersessional period up to the ~~43~~14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- b) coordinate with the Secretariat of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) for the implementation of the Baer's Pochard and Far Eastern Curlew Action Plans and with the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for the Dalmatian Pelican and White-headed Duck Action Plans during the intersessional period up to the ~~43~~14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

13.BB (12.21)

The Standing Committee is authorized to adopt the ~~European Turtle Dove, Yellow-breasted Bunting, White-headed Duck and Dalmatian Pelican~~ Action Plans, once finalized, in the intersessional period between the ~~42~~13th and ~~43~~14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.