

**7th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC7)**

Bonn, Germany, 17 – 20 September 2024

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Outcome 1.3

PROGRAMME OF WORK: AVIAN SPECIES CONSERVATION ISSUES

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
	<i>Text of Resolution / Decision</i>	<i>Further short description of activity (if necessary)</i>	<i>List of outputs</i>	<i>Timeframe (year and/or meeting) (as per Res / Dec, if provided)</i>	<i>Name of lead person(s)</i>	<i>Names of other people involved</i>	<i>ScC, StC, COP (including session number)</i>	<i>Status of the activity</i>
Avian Species Conservation Issues								
TASK FORCE ON ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (MIKT)								
<i>Dec.14.122</i>	<i>The Scientific Council, subject to the availability of external resources, in liaison with the CMS Secretariat, and in conjunction with Decision 14.182 (a) Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife, is requested to undertake a scientific review on the scope and scale of illegal killing and taking of birds, as well as illegal trade of birds across sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia to enable Parties, policy instruments and NGOs to set appropriate priorities to address the issue.</i>	As per mandate	Scientific report on the scope and scale of illegal killing and taking of birds, as well as illegal trade of birds across sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia	by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8		Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Foteini Papazoglou; Iván Ramirez, Tilman Schneider, ITTEA Coordinator; SW Asia IKB Task Force Coordinator)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Not started
<i>Dec.14.123</i>	<i>The Scientific Council, as far as possible in cooperation with the relevant bodies of other appropriate multilateral environmental agreements, and subject to the availability of resources, is requested to contribute as appropriate to a global situation analysis on production, sale, use and regulation of the use of mist nets and other sorts of nets used for bird trapping, which may include:</i>	As per mandate; Notification from Secretariat inquiring information from Parties and Observers on production, sale, use and regulation of the use of mist nets and other sorts of nets used for bird trapping, and compile summary document	Global situation analysis on mist nets; questionnaire for consultation with Parties and Observers	by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8		Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Foteini Papazoglou; Iván Ramirez, Tilman Schneider, ITTEA Coordinator; SW Asia IKB Task Force Coordinator); BirdLife International	ScC-SC8, COP15	
	<i>a) compiling data on the global scale of the use of nets for killing, taking and trade of birds to support an assessment of the illegal component and impact on CMS-listed species;</i>	As per mandate		by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8		Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Foteini Papazoglou; Iván Ramirez, Tilman Schneider, ITTEA Coordinator; SW Asia IKB Task Force Coordinator)	ScC-SC8, COP15	

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	<i>b) identifying where mist nets are produced and sold, including by building on information from existing ringing schemes such as EURING and similar schemes available in other regions;</i>	As per mandate		by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8		Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Foteini Papazoglou; Iván Ramírez, Tilman Schneider, ITTEA Coordinator; SW Asia IKB Task Force Coordinator)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
	<i>c) producing an overview of national legislation regulating production, sale, possession and use of mist nets and other sorts of nets used for bird trapping;</i>	As per mandate		by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8		Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Foteini Papazoglou; Iván Ramírez, Tilman Schneider, ITTEA Coordinator; SW Asia IKB Task Force Coordinator)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
	<i>d) produce guidance on undertaking national assessments of production, sale, use and regulation of mist nets and other nets used for trapping birds;</i>	As per mandate		by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8		Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Foteini Papazoglou; Iván Ramírez, Tilman Schneider, ITTEA Coordinator; SW Asia IKB Task Force Coordinator)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
	<i>e) produce guidance for governments and enforcement authorities on regulation of production and sale of mist nets and other nets used for bird trapping; and</i>	As per mandate		by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8		Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Foteini Papazoglou; Iván Ramírez, Tilman Schneider, ITTEA Coordinator; SW Asia IKB Task Force Coordinator)	ScC-SC8, COP15	

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	<i>f) produce guidance on the legal aspects of trade of mist nets and other nets that can be used for illegal killing, taking and trade of birds for online retailers and other retailers.</i>	As per mandate		by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8		Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Foteini Papazoglou; Iván Ramírez, Tilman Schneider, ITTEA Coordinator; SW Asia IKB Task Force Coordinator)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
ACTION PLAN FOR MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION (AEMLAP)								
14.132	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</i>				Olivier Biber (AEML WG Chair); Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI): Alain Jacot, Reto Spaar	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
	<i>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;</i>	As per mandate	Membership extension; Notification to Focal Points in the range; process on renewing the AEML WG POW to be started in consultation with Steering Group and WG; meeting of WG planned	Ongoing	Olivier Biber (AEML WG Chair); Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI): Alain Jacot, Reto Spaar	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Ongoing; Steering Group
	<i>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 9 of Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14) Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP); and</i>	As per mandate	Research papers and other outputs	Ongoing	Olivier Biber (AEML WG Chair); Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI): Alain Jacot, Reto Spaar	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Ongoing through SOI activities

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	<i>c) provide support to the Working Group, its Steering Group and Coordination Unit for the implementation of the Working Group Programme of Work.</i>	Provide inputs to the Working Groups activities and relevant documents	Workplan outputs	Ongoing	Olivier Biber (AEML WG Chair); Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI): Alain Jacot, Reto Spaar	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Ongoing
<i>Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14), Operative Paragraph (OP) 9.</i>	<i>9. Requests the Scientific Council, subject to the availability of resources, in partnership with the Working Group, in liaison with the MLSG, relevant academic institutions and research-funders, to evaluate: existing long-term and large-scale datasets, (such as the European Atlas of Bird Migration, the African Bird Atlas Project (ABAP) and the Eurasian African Bird Migration Atlas); the use of new and emerging tracking technologies, field studies of migrant birds in Africa, Europe and Asia; the use of survey and demographic data from the Eurasian breeding grounds and the use of remote sensing earth observation data of land cover change in Africa and Asia, and use the outcomes of this evaluation to actively promote research that addresses key knowledge gaps relating to migratory landbird conservation in African Eurasian region, inter alia, to:</i> <i>a) Using multi-species analyses and tracking technologies to identify migratory pathways and strategies, and better understand movement patterns, geographic areas of particular importance to multiple landbird species and migratory connectivity, enabling field research, monitoring and conservation action to be targeted more effectively;</i>	As per mandate, evaluate data sets, technologies, studies etc; promoting research investigating knowledge gaps	Evaluation reports, correspondence; SOI try to setup Atlas in West African countries; workshops Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti	Ongoing	Olivier Biber (AEML WG Chair); Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI): Alain Jacot, Reto Spaar	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider)	ScC-SC8, COP15	PhD research ongoing looking at hotspots of use and features of migratory birds and population declines; Workshop on ABAP in Senegal completed a) Ongoing work by SOI and partners

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	<p><i>b) undertaking detailed field studies in sub-Saharan Africa and at staging sites, using existing data where appropriate, to better understand species distribution patterns, habitat use and foraging ecology, and in particular identify and enhance conservation of the stop-over sites immediately to the north and south of the Sahara (including through data collection and seeking linkages with relevant stakeholders);</i></p> <p><i>c) synthesizing data from Eurasian breeding grounds to explore spatial and temporal patterns in demographic parameters in relation to migratory pathways and largescale patterns of environmental change;</i></p> <p><i>d) using satellite image Earth observation data and, where possible, in conjunction with on the ground habitat and bird monitoring data (including through synergies with and expansion of common bird monitoring schemes) to improve understanding of where land cover is changing and how this impacts African-Eurasian migrant birds, and research the drivers of land use/land cover change;</i></p> <p><i>e) seeking better understanding of how to influence the economic and social policy drivers causing land use/land cover change at different scales;</i></p> <p><i>f) encouraging research to determine which traits of migratory populations are associated with population declines and for which declining African-Eurasian migrant landbird populations declines cannot be explained by conditions in the breeding grounds;</i></p> <p><i>g) working in collaboration with relevant initiatives to monitor the effect on migrant landbirds of land use and habitat-based</i></p>							<p>b) No progress</p> <p>c) SPEAR project ongoing with AEWA; Habitrack, with AEWA being part of Steering Groups; d) SOI research ongoing on exclosure sites studying effects on birds, with benefits for local and migratory birds and farmer's income, and vegetation structure; scientific publication to be produced; Side event proposal submitted to UNCCD COP in 2024</p>

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	<p><i>interventions including those with a poverty alleviation or climate change focus and to mainstream knowledge of tree species of particular importance for migrant landbirds into planning processes of tree planting initiatives; and</i></p> <p><i>h) encouraging detection of nesting sites to avoid their destruction by agricultural practices;</i></p>							
<i>Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14), OP 10.</i>	<i>10. Further requests the Scientific Council and the Working Group, subject to the availability of resources, in liaison with FLAP, to promote and encourage increased public awareness of, and support for, migratory landbird conservation along the flyway among the general public and stakeholders, including about how individual birds are shared across countries and act as indicators of the overall health of the environment, of people and all biodiversity</i>	As per mandate	Communication outputs, correspondence with relevant stakeholders, (side) events organized e.g. at UNCCD COP16; AEML WG meeting planned in Eastern Africa	Ongoing	Olivier Biber (AEML WG Chair); Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI); Alain Jacot, Reto Spaar	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider)	ScC-SC8, COP15	EU Flynet: engagement of AEMLAP Coordination in in 3 working groups; started process to reactivate FLAP
<i>Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14), OP 11.</i>	<i>11. Further requests the Scientific Council and the Working Group, subject to the availability of resources, in liaison with FLAP, to disseminate evidence and information to decision makers and those formulating prescriptions for action;</i>	As per mandate	Communication outputs, correspondence with relevant stakeholders, (side) events organized e.g. at UNCCD COP16	Ongoing	Olivier Biber (AEML WG Chair); Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI); Alain Jacot, Reto Spaar	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
<i>Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14), OP 16.</i>	<i>16. Requests the Working Group and the CMS Scientific Council, subject to the availability of resources in liaison with the MLSG and FLAP, with the support of the CMS Secretariat, to support implementation of Action Plans for a set of species including the European Roller (Coracias garrulus) originally adopted through Resolution 12.12 Action Plans for Birds, the European Turtle Dove (Streptopelia turtur), adopted by the 48th Meeting of the Standing Committee in line with Decision 12.21 Action Plans for Birds, and the Yellow-breasted Bunting (Emberiza aureola), once endorsed; and to continue to develop Action Plans for</i>	As per mandate	Follow process of adaptive harvest management of Turtle Dove, and the population trends; Symposium on Yellow-breasted Bunting at Ornithological Congress in China	Ongoing	Olivier Biber (AEML WG Chair); Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI); Alain Jacot, Reto Spaar	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Posts on European Roller through FLAP done; Bustards Without Borders expert group created to develop Multi-species Action Plan for Bustards; Secretariat

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	<i>declining migratory landbirds, particularly buntings;</i>							following process of adaptive harvest management of Turtle Dove; Yellow-breasted Bunting Action Plan adopted by CMS
<i>Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14), OP 18.</i>	<i>18. Calls on Parties and the Scientific Council to report progress in implementing the Action Plan, including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.</i>	As per mandate	Report to COP15	by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8	Olivier Biber (AEML WG Chair); Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI): Alain Jacot, Reto Spaar	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
FLYWAYS								
<i>14.140</i>	<i>The Flyways Working Group is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</i>							
	<i>a) act as a platform that ensures the exchange of best practices and the identification of global synergies and gaps across the different flyway-related initiatives, either developed within the framework of the CMS or outside, in alignment with the priorities identified in the CMS Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) and with those of other relevant MEAs working in the areas linked to migratory bird conservation, their habitats or threats associated with them;</i>	As per mandate	Informal meeting of FWG members participating in ScC-SC7 to discuss task teams (seabirds, review global POW, work with other instruments, hub for information sharing, gaps and priorities)	Ongoing	Rob Clay, Chair Flyways WG	Narelle Montgomery, ScC Chair, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Online meeting of FWG organized in April 2024;
	<i>b) with the support of the Secretariat, and in coordination with regional flyway initiatives, develop guidance to aid Parties in identifying key priorities and major implementation gaps in their region to support implementation of Decision 14.137 (a);</i>	As per mandate	Guidance document on key priorities and major implementation gaps in CMS regions	by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8	Rob Clay, Chair Flyways WG; Sec	Narelle Montgomery, ScC Chair, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Secretariat intern to support

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	<i>c) based on the information provided by the Parties, review the relevant elements of the Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023, and propose a way forward for an update or revision of this work programme, in alignment with the priorities and targets identified in the CMS SPMS;</i>	As per mandate	Concept for updated/revised Programme of Work on Flyways; task teams' process (see above)		Rob Clay, Chair Flyways WG	Narelle Montgomery, ScC Chair, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
	<i>d) review relevant scientific and technical issues, international initiatives and processes linked to migratory birds, their habitats and the threats associated with them;</i>	As per mandate	Reports, research papers	Ongoing	Rob Clay, Chair Flyways WG	Narelle Montgomery, ScC Chair, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	No significant progress
	<i>e) help to ensure the coordination between various CMS Working Groups and Task Forces (e.g., Illegal Killing of Birds, Poisoning, Landbirds, Energy) on flyway-related actions and priorities, and enhance synergies in their implementation;</i>	As per mandate	Communication, correspondence, Flyways Working Group - FWG (online) meetings	Ongoing	Rob Clay, Chair Flyways WG	Narelle Montgomery, ScC Chair, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Ongoing through Secretariat activities
	<i>f) facilitate a discussion amongst Parties, non-Party Range States, relevant regional mechanisms and stakeholders to explore opportunities for advancing a comprehensive seabird agenda, taking into account existing programmes of work;</i>	As per mandate	correspondence, FWG (online) meetings, task team on seabirds outputs	Ongoing	Rob Clay, Chair Flyways WG	Narelle Montgomery, ScC Chair, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Task team on seabirds established
	<i>g) with support from the Secretariat, develop guidance to help Parties raise awareness of the importance of migratory flyways and the ecosystem services they provide; and</i>	As per mandate	Guidance document; review of Americas Flyways Framework and Action Plan; potential development of MOU	by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8	Rob Clay, Chair Flyways WG	Narelle Montgomery, ScC Chair, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Proposal from Brazil to host meetings of Grassland Birds MOS3 and Americas Flyways Framework
	<i>h) report progress to the Scientific Council.</i>	As per mandate	Written and oral reports on Flyways to ScC-SC meetings and COP15, as appropriate.	by the documents deadline for ScC-SC8	Rob Clay, Chair Flyways WG	Narelle Montgomery, ScC Chair, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	

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<i>Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14), OP 23.</i>	<i>23. Requests the Scientific Council to produce guidelines and/or case studies on mechanisms to enhance the conservation of migratory birds through site networks, including important oceanic ecosystems used by marine bird species</i>	As per mandate	Guidelines, case studies	Ongoing	Rob Clay, Chair Flyways WG	Narelle Montgomery, ScC Chair, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Recent meeting of BirdLife and IUCN on mapping exercise of key sites with inclusion of World Heritage sites, and Ramsar and other sites designations
CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN VULTURES								
14.153	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to consider the West African Vultures Action Plan, if provided to the Scientific Council at the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council and recommend it to the Standing Committee for adoption.</i>	As per mandate, review Action Plan and give recommendation to the Standing Committee	Recommendation to the Standing Committee	ScC-SC7		Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, Sec FP: Umberto Gallo-Orsi	StC56	Draft action plan recommended to StC for endorsement
SAKER FALCON (FALCO CHERRUG) GLOBAL ACTION PLAN (SAKERGAP)								
14.158	<i>The Scientific Council shall keep under review the work to implement the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan and to advise on the scientific principles and precedents involved, notably in relation to the adaptive management of the species and on the significance of data and information gaps in assessing the impact of electrocution on the viability of populations across the global range of the species.</i>	As per mandate	Draft Adaptive Management Framework; report on electrocution of Saker Falcons	Ongoing	Raptors MOU CU	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, Sec FP: Umberto Gallo-Orsi	ScC-SC8, COP15	Modules of the Adaptive Management Framework concept under development

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ENDORSEMENT OF ACTION PLANS FOR SELECTED APPENDIX I AND II MIGRATORY BIRDS								
<i>Resolution 5.9 (Rev.COP12), OP 3.</i>	<i>3. Requests the Secretariat and the Scientific Council to provide the necessary support for these activities [NB: see operative para 1. and 2.: 1. Encourages Parties that are Range States for the above species to support the implementation of these action plans; 2. Encourages the AEWA Range States which have not yet signed this important Agreement to do so, in order to ensure a more appropriate management of their shared waterbirds;</i>	As per mandate	Communication, correspondence to Parties/Range States	Ongoing		Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett (Sec FP: Tilman Schneider, Iván Ramírez, Umberto Gallo-Orsi)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Ongoing Secretariat support (see action plans above)
POWER LINES AND MIGRATORY BIRDS								
<i>Resolution 10.11 (Rev.COP13), OP 5.</i>	<i>5. Requests the Scientific Council, specifically the Working Groups on birds and flyways, to monitor the implementation of this Resolution and to provide further guidance when relevant new developments on reducing the impact of power lines on birds become available, such as improved mitigation techniques and standardized monitoring protocols;</i>	Monitor development of the issue of power lines, as per mandate; studies on seasonality of activation of wind farms and related infrastructure encouraged	Correspondence; production of specific guidance under the ETF e.g. cumulative impacts, mitigation of risk to bats etc.;	Ongoing	Energy Task Force members	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, ETF Coordinator (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez, Umberto Gallo-Orsi)	ScC-SC8, COP15	ETF monitoring impl. of this Resolution. ETF7 established working groups on specific tasks (marine mammals, bats, private sector engagement, develop new ETF POW); data from African-Eurasian region available

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PROMOTING CONSERVATION OF CRITICAL INTERTIDAL AND OTHER COASTAL HABITATS FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES								
<i>Resolution 12.25, OP 3.</i>	<i>3. Requests the Scientific Council, funding permitting, to seek input from the scientific subsidiary bodies of other multi-lateral environment agreements, to establish a multi-stakeholder working group, under the proposed Coastal Forum, to develop global guidance on the conservation, wise use and management of sustainable 'Working Coastal Habitats', in particular elaborating strategies and models for economic development, that maintain the ecological character and functionality of such habitats to the benefit of local communities and migratory species, and to submit this draft guidance for consideration at COP13;</i>	As per mandate	Dissemination of information on guidelines and seminars from WCF; Draft motion for IUCN Congress by BirdLife International	Ongoing	BirdLife International	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Secretariat has supported and followed the establishment of World Coastal Forum; BirdLife active in the WCF; online seminars guidelines on restoration and management; 2nd WCF conference in planning
<i>Resolution 12.25, OP 4.</i>	<i>4. Urges Parties and the Scientific Council, funding permitting, to support and engage in the establishment, under the Coastal Forum, of a "Caring for Coasts" initiative to promote restoration of coastal wetlands and other relevant habitats;</i>	As per mandate	Dissemination of information on guidelines and seminars from WCF; Draft motion for IUCN Congress by BirdLife International	Ongoing	BirdLife International	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
<i>Resolution 12.25, OP 16.</i>	<i>16. Calls on Parties and the Scientific Council to report progress in implementing this Resolution, including assessments of the efficacy of measures taken, to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties including through their National Reports</i>	As per mandate	Reports	Ongoing	BirdLife International	Rob Clay, Stephen Garnett, (Sec FP: Iván Ramírez)	ScC-SC8, COP15	