
February 2016 Updates for AEML-WG

1. One of the major products of the 2nd meeting of AEML-WG which took place in Abidjan in November 2015, was a [draft Programme of Work \(POW\)](#) for the implementation of the Action Plan. This draft document will be discussed at the first meeting of Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council Scientific of CMS in April 2016. A draft report for the Abidjan meeting exists and final one will be circulated in due course.
2. We are planning to have a symposium on AEMLAP at the 14th Pan African Ornithological Congress scheduled to take place in Dakar Senegal in October 2016. This will, however, be possible subject to finding sponsors.
3. As part of implementing AEMLAP, a workshop on land use and land use changes has been proposed to take place from 21st November 2016. The focus will be West Africa with tentative venue as Nigeria. A workshop concept (attached) has been drafted and is being used to source for a donor.
4. Action for AEMLAP priority species:
 - a. Species action planning for the European Turtle-dove is being coordinated by The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds through an EU LIFE project. Regional consultative workshops are being planned.
 - b. The Action Planning for the European Roller is still under way through coordination of BirdLife Hungary (MME)
 - c. Yellow-breasted Bunting: there are plans to initiate action planning and a regional monitoring scheme for the species subject to availability of funds. Efforts are being led by BirdLife Asia.
5. A project on bird monitoring (including migratory landbirds) in Biosphere Reserves in Africa led by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) has been approved for the years 2016-2018. The Birdlife Partner in Germany (NABU) and BirdLife International have, on successful bidding, been invited to submit a full proposal for its implementation.
6. It is now official that the [World Migratory Bird Day Celebrations](#) will be on 10th May 2016. This year's theme is on the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds. The event theme will help profile and create awareness on the threat of migratory birds including migratory landbirds.
7. I am in the process of developing a list of contacts which might be useful or supportive in the implementation of AEMLAP. Members are welcome to contribute and make use of the contact list.

Relevant upcoming events

8. The [3rd Meeting of the Special Focal Points for Illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds](#), Bern Convention, will take place on 14-15th April 2016 in Tirana, Albania.

Bern Convention complements AEMLAP objectives e.g. on bird's taking and trade

9. First Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC1) will take place on 18 – 21st April 2016 at Bonn, Germany.

It is expected to be mainly a planning meeting, during which the Sessional Committee will discuss and agree its work plan for the remaining part of the triennium, including any input to COP12. The AEMLAP POW will be discussed at the meeting.

10. The first meeting of CMS Task Force on Illegal killing of Birds will be on 12-15th July 2016 in Cairo, Egypt.

The AEML-WG, as per to the draft POW, seeks to develop synergies with the Task Force. Mr. Olivier Biber is a member of the Task Force in his capacity as the Chair of AEML-WG.

11. The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 will take place on 3 – 10th September in Hawai'i, USA.

There is no specific item on migratory landbirds at the moment but the IUCN Congress offers opportunities to share with and gain from people with diverse conservation backgrounds. A motion on co-responsibility among countries sharing the range of migratory species has been proposed by SEO/BirdLife Spain

12. The 20th European Bird Census Council, meeting will take place on 5 – 9th September 2016 in Halle (Salle), Germany.

The meeting will have discussions relevant to migratory landbirds in their non-breeding ranges. The meeting will be possibly held back to back with the European Turtle dove (a flagship species for AEMLAP) International Species Action Planning workshop.

13. The African Congress for Conservation Biology (Society of Conservation Biology, SCB) will be held on 10 – 15th October 2016 at the University of Chaouib Doukkali, El Jadida, Morocco.

The 3rd SCB Africa Section Regional Conference is a significant event that seeks to coalesce continent wide scientific research and information, energy and expertise on conservation challenges in the milieu of globalization. Due to the envisaged discussions at the conference, AEML-WG is seeking to have a migratory landbirds agenda item included.

14. The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17) will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September to 5 October 2016.

15. The 4th [Pan African Ornithological Congress \(PAOC\)](#) will be held in Dakar, Senegal on 17-21st October, 2016. The theme for this year's Congress is "Global challenges: threats and opportunities for birds in Africa".

PAOC meets every 4 years and aims to further the study of African birds, to promote the preservation of African birds as an integral part of the African heritage, to foster the appreciation of birds and discussion of African birds in relation to man, and to disseminate information on African birds through appropriate international meetings and publications.

Funds allowing, there are plans to hold a symposium on migratory landbirds at the congress. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 3rd April 2016.

16. The 45th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee will take place on 9 – 10th November 2016 in Bonn, Germany.

17. The [Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties](#) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will be held on 5 – 17th in December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico.
