

**5th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC5)**

Online, 28 June – 9 July 2021

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Outcome 1.4

PROGRAMME OF WORK AVIAN SPECIES CONSERVATION ISSUES

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Priority	Report to	Status
<i>Resolution / Decision number</i>	<i>Text of Resolution / Decision</i> (The Scientific Council shall/should)	<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>Core, High, Medium, Low</i>	<i>ScC, StC, COP (including session number)</i>	<i>Status of the activity</i>
Avian Species Conservation Issues									
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY LAND BIRDS									
<i>Res.11.17 (Rev.COP13)</i>	<i>9.Further requests the Scientific Council and the Working Group, 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	To be defined by the WG through its POW	2021-2023	Olivier Biber	AEMLAP Coordination Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI); Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider; Nora Weyer	Medium	ScC-SC6 - COP14	Ongoing
<i>Res.11.17 (Rev.COP13)</i>	<i>14. Requests the Working Group and the CMS Scientific Council, in liaison with the MLSG and FLAP, with the support of the CMS Secretariat, to support implementation of Action Plans for a first set of species including the European Roller (Coracias garrulus) 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 to continue to develop Action Plans for declining migratory buntings, including the Yellow-breasted Bunting (Emberiza aureola);</i>	Supporting the implementation of existing Action Plans; Supporting the development of Action Plans for Yellow-breasted Bunting and other declining migratory buntings	Action Plans for Yellow-breasted Bunting (<i>Emberiza aureola</i>) and other bunting species, as relevant, ready for adoption	Ongoing	Olivier Biber	AEMLAP Coordination Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI); Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider; Nora Weyer	Medium	ScC-SC6 - COP14	Ongoing
<i>Res.11.17 (Rev.COP13)</i>	<i>16. 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>	Report on progress and review of the Action Plan	Report on Progress; Draft Decisions and Resolutions	COP14	Olivier Biber,	AEMLAP Coordination Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI); Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider; Nora Weyer	Medium	COP14	Not started (in current intersessional period)

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Dec. 13.35	<i>a) continue the Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds until the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14), extending its membership to incorporate expertise from geographical regions currently absent, to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan, and to develop indicators to assess the implementation of the Programme of Work 2016 – 2020;</i>	Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds continues its activities: Organize meetings of the Working Group; incorporate new members of non-represented regions. Develop indicators	WG is active. Membership extended Indicators to assess the implementation of the POW 2016 – 2020 and the new POW post 2020	2021-2023	Olivier Biber	AEMLAP Coordination Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI); Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider; Nora Weyer	High	ScC-SC6 COP14	Ongoing; Working Group continues; a first review of the implementation of the POW 2016-2020 has been undertaken incl. inputs from WG members
Res. 11.17 (Rev. COP13) Dec. 13.35	<i>Res. 11.17 (Rev. COP13) 8. Requests the Scientific Council and the Working Group in liaison with the MLSG to promote work to address key gaps in knowledge and future research directions, in particular through the analysis of existing long-term and large-scale datasets, the European Atlas of Bird Migration, the use of new and emerging tracking technologies, field studies of migrant birds in Africa, use of survey and demographic data from the Eurasian breeding grounds and use of remote sensing earth observation data of land cover change in Africa. Dec.13.35 b) in the intersessional period between the 13th and the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and subject to the availability of resources, work with the Migratory Landbird Study Group, relevant academic institutions, research-funders and the Working Group, in order to actively promote research that addresses key knowledge gaps relating to migratory landbird conservation in African landscapes, inter alia, to:</i>	Undertake a study aimed at identifying key knowledge gaps and research needs, suitable research institutions and potential donors and funding programmes workshop activity under lead of BirdLife International	Study	2021-2023	Olivier Biber; Avian ScC-SC WG	AEMLAP Coordination Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI); Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider; Nora Weyer; BirdLife International	High	ScC-SC6 - COP14	Ongoing; review of AEMLAP implementation not started yet

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	<p><i>i. identify migratory pathways and strategies (including multi-species analysis) using tracking technologies to better understand movement patterns, geographic areas of particular importance to multiple landbird species and migratory connectivity so enabling field research, monitoring and conservation action to be targeted more effectively;</i></p> <p><i>ii. undertake detailed field studies in sub-Saharan Africa and at staging sites, in conjunction with 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>iii. synthesize data from European breeding grounds to explore spatial and temporal patterns in demographic parameters in relation to migratory pathways and large-scale patterns of environmental change;</i></p> <p><i>iv. use satellite image Earth observation data and where possible in conjunction with on the ground habitat and bird monitoring (including through synergies with and expansion of common bird monitoring schemes) to improve understanding 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>v. seek better understanding of how to influence the economic and social policy drivers causing land use / land cover change at different scales; and</i></p> <p><i>vi. encourage research to determine for which declining European landbird migrants declines cannot be explained by conditions in the breeding grounds.</i></p>								

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Dec. 13.35	<p>c) consider the viability of the Working Group and its Steering Group in the absence of sufficient funds required for the implementation and coordination of the Working Group's Programme of Work, as outlined in Decision 13.36</p> <p>(b), and to propose an alternative mechanism for the implementation of these activities, as needed;</p>	As per mandate	Assessment of the viability of the Working Group and its Steering Group; proposal for alternative mechanisms as needed	2021-2023	Avian ScC-SC WG	Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider; Nora Weyer	High	ScC-SC6 - COP14	AEMLAP coordination being supported by Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI); ToRs for coordination adopted by the AEML WG; Coordination Unit in force
POWER LINES AND MIGRATORY BIRDS									
Res.10.11 (Rev.COP13)	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;	As per mandate, contributions from Councillors active in the field in the different regions; ensure synergies with Energy Task Force and the anticipated working group on linear infrastructure	Guidance provided	2021-2023	Rob Clay; Stephen Garnett;	Avian ScC-SC WG; Energy Task Force Members Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider, BirdLife International	Medium	COP14	Ongoing
SUPPORT TO THE ENERGY TASK FORCE									
Dec. 13.107 (a-e)	<p>The Energy Task Force, with input from the Scientific Council as appropriate, is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <p>a) investigate best practices to standardize methodologies in planning, managing and monitoring renewable energy infrastructure and its impact on biodiversity, effective evidence-based mitigation measures as well as methods for cumulative assessment;</p>	ScC-SC to monitor relevant work of the Energy Task Force (ETF), and provide input as appropriate	Input provided	2021-2023	Rob Clay; Stephen Garnett	Avian ScC-SC WG; Energy Task Force Members Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider; ETF Coordinator, BirdLife International	Medium	COP14	Ongoing

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	<p><i>b) collate best practices and suggest means of integrating biodiversity into national policies for renewable energy mix and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as per Decision 13.108, below;</i></p> <p><i>c) produce guidance and review tools for assessing and mitigating for cumulative impacts of (renewable) energy and power line developments on migratory species, including those beyond national borders, across flyways and throughout species' ranges; this includes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. standardized approaches for post-construction monitoring of renewable energy projects, and review of existing tools, such as GenEst,</i> <i>ii. the collation of species' mortality data in national and global mortality databases,</i> <i>iii. analysis of methods for establishing cumulative impacts under determined spatial scale and population-level effects, including such effects resulting from species displacement due to construction and operation of energy infrastructure,</i> <i>iv. strengthening national procedures to deliver licensing and permitting of energy infrastructure;</i> <p><i>d) undertake these activities in collaboration with the specialized organizations referred to in Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP12) Impact Assessment and Migratory Species, building on the principles expressed in that Resolution;</i></p> <p><i>e) report to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) on the above activities.</i></p>								

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FLYWAYS									
Res. 12.11 (Rev. COP13)	26. 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;	Develop Terms of Reference for the implementation of the activity; identify potential partners and donors to implement the activity; sharing existing resources and information available from existing flyway networks.	Guidelines/ Case Studies produced	ScC-SC6	Rob Clay; Stephen Garnett	Flyways WG Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider; Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International	Medium	COP14	Not started
	10. Further requests the continuation of the open-ended Flyways Working Group extending membership to incorporate expertise from geographical regions and relevant CMS bodies currently absent;	Review of Flyways WG membership; identification of gaps in expertise; identification of, and invitation to prospected new members to fill those gaps	WG is active; Membership of the WG extended	Ongoing	Rob Clay; Avian ScC-SC WG	Flyways Working Group; Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider	High	ScC-SC6 - COP14	FWG continues
ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (MIKT)									
Dec. 13.29	Funds permitting, in liaison with the CMS Secretariat, and in conjunction with i) the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group in line with Decision 13.64 Aquatic Wild Meat; ii) the Terrestrial Working Group in line with Decision 13.109 Addressing Unsustainable Use of Terrestrial and Avian Wild Meat of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; 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.	Develop ToR for the review; identify potential partners and donors to implement the activity	Scientific Review undertaken	ScC-SC6	Rob Clay; Stephen Garnett; Avian ScC-SC WG; Nicola Crockford (BL Int.)	Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group; Terrestrial Working Group; Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider	Medium	COP14	Fundraising efforts incl. by partners ongoing

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<i>Dec. 13.30 (to the Sec. and the SC)</i>	<i>In order to prevent illegal trapping of birds and with funds permitting, and working with the Secretariats of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, contribute as appropriate to a global situation analysis on production, sale, use and regulation of use of mist nets, and other sorts of nets used for bird trapping, which may include: a) identifying where mist nets are produced and sold, including by building on information from existing ringing schemes such as EURING; b) producing an overview of national legislation regulating production, sale, possession and use of mist nets and other sorts of nets used for bird trapping; c) 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>	In consultation with the Secretariats of other relevant MEAs, develop ToRs for the global situation analysis; identify potential partners and donors to implement the activity; Overview of national legislation on mist nets and other traps; As per mandate	The analysis conducted comprises data on mist nets productions and trade; An assessment of impact on CMS listed species is supported by the analysis conducted	ScC-SC6	Rob Clay; Stephen Garnett; Avian ScC-SC WG; Fernando Spina Nicola Crockford (BL Int.)	Sec. FP: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider; Artic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI); EURING; Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network (Red de Anillamiento de Aves del Hemisferio Occidental)	Medium	COP14	Fundraising efforts incl. by partners ongoing
ILLEGAL HUNTING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY									
<i>Res. 11.16 (Rev. COP13), Annex 2</i>	<i>Terms of Reference of Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (ITTEA)</i>	Active participation in the ITTEA (Task Force); contributing to the development of a prioritized work programme; support to establishment of ITTEA	Task Force Establishment and prioritized work programme supported		Narelle Montgomery, Stephen Garnett	Secretariat: Iván Ramírez; Tilman Schneider; EAAFP partners		COP14	Not started

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CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN VULTURES									
<i>Dec. 13.51</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is authorized to liaise with the Vulture Working Group and the IUCN Vulture Specialist Group, via the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors Memorandum of Understanding to address key gaps in knowledge as highlighted within the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan, subject to the availability of resources.</i>	As per mandate; activities of CITES Animals Committee; and NSAIDs Working Group	Vulture Multispecies Action Plan implemented	Ongoing	Rob Clay; Stephen Garnett;	Avian ScC-SC WG Raptors MoU Coordinating Unit	Medium	ScC SC6 -- COP14	Ongoing
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICAN MIGRATORY GRASSLAND BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS									
<i>Res.12.11 (Rev.COP13)/ Annex 1</i>	Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways	Support the implementation of the action plan of the MOU on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Birds and their Habitats especially regarding concerted actions within areas of special interest as renewable energy potential impact and illegal trade of species within the MoU, and to report to COP14 onward	Relevant action plan items implementation supported	Ongoing	Patricia Serafini	Rob Clay; Secretariat: Iván Ramirez; Tilman Schneider	Medium	ScC-SC6	Ongoing