

## ADDENDUM 1

**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS**  
(arising from ScC-SC6)

**ACTION PLAN FOR MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION  
(AEMLAP)**

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.2

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP14**

Recommended for adoption including proposed changes to the text below.

**GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT**

During the meeting of the Avian Working Group, it was stated that Parties need to supply more resources for implementation of the AEMLAP and the activities need to be made more visible. Greater leadership and initiative were needed from the AEMLAP Range States because, currently, only 58 of the 129 Range States were part of the AEML Working Group following invitations from the Secretariat. The lack of funding for this initiative was highlighted. A Decision was proposed to express the need for stronger support.

It was recommended that the AEMLAP species list is updated following the intersessional work on disaggregation and taxonomy.

**COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION**

- The section on *Activities to implement Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP13) and Decisions 13.34 to 13.38* was considered helpful, with some minor corrections (new text underlined) requested:

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.2, page 4:

“9. Members of the AEML SG promoted the AEMLAP at various congresses, such as the Pan-African Ornithological Congress (~~Uganda-Zimbabwe~~, November 2022) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (India, May 2023) to promote synergies between both processes.”

“10. Members of the AEML WG, and the Secretariat also supported a multi-partner collaborative project funded ~~run~~ by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, ‘Integrating science, policy and sustainable development to address African-Eurasian migrant landbird declines: African perspectives on a flyway-wide issue’, which started in 2020.”

- Regarding the draft revisions of the Resolution contained in Annex 1, the Avian Working group supported the updates and proposed some additional edits as follows:

Page 7, second paragraph of the preamble, include the CBD’s target regarding habitat restoration (new text underlined in the paragraph below):

“Aware that the status of migratory landbirds is widely used as an indicator of the overall health of the environment and other biodiversity, *inter alia* the achievement of Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) related to the effective restoration

~~of degraded areas<sup>12</sup> of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and when monitored with standardized methods, migratory landbirds can provide an effective indicator of sustainable land use,"~~

Page 9, after the paragraph starting with "*Taking note* of the conclusion of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative workshop (...)" the avian working group suggests adding another paragraph:

"Further noting the conclusion of the PAOC symposium and round table, 'Integrating science, policy and sustainable development to address African-Eurasian migrant landbird declines: African perspectives on a flyway-wide issue', that there are many opportunities for positive outcomes for migratory landbirds, wider biodiversity and local communities if biodiversity- and human development-focused communities work together on ecosystem restoration-based approaches to sustainable development, including on selection of tree species to maximize benefits to both local communities and biodiversity, framing interventions to deliver on both socioeconomic and biodiversity indicators, and using monitoring of outcomes of interventions in the landscape to build a better understanding of effectiveness of different approaches."

- The avian working group proposes the following changes to the draft Decisions contained in Annex 2:
- Regarding Decision 14.AA (page 12), the Working Group proposes adding the following paragraphs and revising existing ones, as follows:

#### **14.AA Directed to Parties**

~~Parties are encouraged to:~~ (...)

- 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 urged 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 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;
- 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 conservation 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 of and the development of action plans for priority land 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.”

- Regarding Decision 14.BB (page 12), the avian working group proposed deleting paragraph b) as it was considered redundant:

“Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: (...)

- ~~b) are urged to support the Working Group to organize at least one meeting within the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15 to, among other activities, review the implementation of the Action Plan and the Programme of Work; “~~

- In Decision 14.DD (page 13), the Working Group proposed adding a new subparagraph:

“The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to: (...)

- c) “organize, in the intersessional period between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Conference of the Parties, a consultation meeting of Range States to agree on whether the Action Plan should remain as a stand-alone document, or whether a new CMS instrument should be developed or an existing CMS instrument used as an institutional framework, or whether another solution should be sought that could enable the AEMLAP to have a better chance of being implemented fully.”