



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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ACTION PLAN FOR MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th Meeting (Quito, 4-9 November 2014)

Concerned that there is compelling scientific evidence of widespread declines of African-Eurasian migratory landbirds in recent decades, and that these declines are of growing conservation concern in both scientific and political arenas as the European breeding populations of some formerly widespread species have more than halved in the last 30 years;

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 12 of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

Aware also that the key drivers of this decline appear to be degradation of the breeding habitats, particularly within agricultural systems and woodland and forests, and in the non-breeding areas the combined factors of anthropogenic habitat degradation, unsustainable harvest and climate change;

Recalling that Resolution 10.27 of the Tenth Conference of the Parties urged Parties and invited non-Parties and other stakeholders with the CMS Secretariat to develop an Action Plan for the conservation of African-Eurasian migrant landbirds and their habitats throughout the flyway, for adoption at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the basis of which the COP can consider the need for a new instrument or using an existing instrument as a framework;

Further recalling Resolution 11.16 on the Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds, and the Guidelines to Prevent Poisoning of Migratory Birds adopted through Resolution 11.15;

Taking note of the report of the workshop to elaborate an Action Plan on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds, that took place in Accra between 31 August and 2 September 2012, and *thanking* the Government of Ghana for effectively hosting this workshop;

Acknowledging with thanks the contributions of the members of the Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds (the Working Group) established under the CMS Scientific Council;

Further acknowledging the essential role of the financial donors of this project, which made it possible to develop the Action Plan, in particular the Government of Switzerland and BirdLife International and its national partners;

Welcoming the establishment of the Migrant Landbirds Study Group (MLSG) as an international network of specialists and organizations working on research, monitoring and conservation of migratory landbird species, *taking note* of the results of its inaugural Meeting in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, 26-28 March 2014 and of the Friends of the Landbirds Action Plan (FLAP) as a forum for interested stakeholders, individual and organizations to follow and support the CMS Action Plan; and

Further welcoming the initiative of EURING (European Union for Bird Ringing) to produce a European Atlas of Bird Migration, based on recoveries of ringed birds, with the support of the CMS Secretariat;

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

1. *Adopts* the “African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP)” (the Action Plan), and its Annexes, contained in Annex II of document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.4/Rev.1 and *urges* Parties and *encourages* non-Parties and stakeholders to implement the Action Plan as a matter of priority;
2. *Especially urges* Parties and *encourages* non-Parties to address the issue of habitat loss and degradation of migratory landbird species through the development of policies that maintain, manage and restore natural and semi-natural habitats within the wider environment, including working with local communities, and in partnership with the poverty alleviation community and the agriculture and forestry sectors in Africa;
3. *Requests* Parties and *invites* Range States to implement existing measures under CMS, AEW, the Raptors MoU and other relevant international environmental treaties, especially where these contribute to the objectives of the Landbirds Action Plan, in order to increase the resilience of migratory landbird populations and their potential to adapt to environmental change;
4. *Calls on* Parties to urgently address the problems of illegal and of unsustainable taking of landbirds during migration and wintering and ensure that national conservation legislation is in place and enforced and implementation measures are taken, and *requests* the Secretariat to liaise with the Bern Convention and other relevant fora in order to facilitate the national and international mitigation of the problem of illegal killing of birds in line with Resolution 11.16 on the Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds;
5. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Parties to implement the Guidelines to Prevent Poisoning of Migratory Birds as adopted through Resolution 11.15; in particular those referring to agricultural pesticides which have a special significance for migratory landbirds as a major source of mortality;
6. *Requests* the Scientific Council and the Working Group, in liaison with the Migrant Landbirds Study Group 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 Sub-Saharan 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 sub-Saharan Africa;

7. *Further requests* the Scientific Council and the Working Group, in liaison with the Friends of the Landbirds Action Plan to promote and encourage increased public awareness of, and support for, migratory landbird conservation along the length of 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;

8. *Instructs* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, subject to the availability of funds, to organize regional workshops to address specific issues and promote the implementation of the Action Plan and share best practice and lessons learnt in the effective conservation of migratory landbirds;

9. *Further instructs* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of funds, to organize in the intersessional period between COP11 and COP12 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 should be used as institutional framework;

10. *Calls on* Parties and *invites* non-Parties and stakeholders, with the support of the Secretariat, to strengthen national and local capacity for the implementation of the Action Plan including, *inter alia*, by developing partnerships with the poverty alleviation community and developing training courses, translating and disseminating examples of best practice, sharing protocols and regulations, transferring technology, and promoting the use of online tools to address specific issues that are relevant to the Action Plan;

11. *Requests* the Working Group and the CMS Scientific Council, in liaison with the Migrant Landbirds Study Group and the Friends of the Landbirds Action Plan, with the support of the CMS Secretariat, to develop as an emerging issue Action Plans for a first set of species including the Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*, Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* and European Roller *Coracias garrulus*;

12. *Urges* Parties and *invites* UNEP and other relevant international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, including from the poverty alleviation community, to support financially the implementation of the Action Plan including through the provision of financial assistance to developing countries for relevant capacity building;

13. *Requests* the continuation of the Working Group until COP12, extending its membership to incorporate expertise from geographical regions currently absent, to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan; and

14. *Calls on* Parties and the Scientific Council to report progress in implementing the Action Plan, including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to COP12 in 2017.