

Saving Migratory Landbirds

The African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP)

1. Introduction

Migratory landbirds are principally ecologically dependent on terrestrial habitats and for which the entire population, or significant proportions of the population, cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries. There have been widespread declines of African-Eurasian migratory landbirds in recent decades, e.g., the European breeding populations of some formerly widespread species have more than halved in the last 30 years. These trends prompted the international community to take steps to improve the conservation status of migratory landbirds in the African-Eurasian region. Consequently, parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) supported the development of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) which was adopted during the 11th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP) in 2014 in Quito, Ecuador.



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2. The scope of the Action Plan

The geographic scope of the Action Plan is the area of the migration systems of African-Eurasian landbird species, Figure 1. The Action Plan covers a total of 504 migratory landbird species which are in the following IUCN categories: (i) Globally Threatened (34), (ii) Least Concern species with decreasing populations (124), and (iii) Least Concern with increasing, stable or unknown global population trends (346).



Figure 1. Map of the area covered by AEMLAP

3. Threats to migratory landbirds

Factors that affect the populations of migratory landbirds may occur in the breeding, staging or non-breeding areas. Habitat loss and degradation poses the most important threat to migratory landbird species. Taking and trade for economic, subsistence, recreational and cultural purposes may also negatively influence their populations. Other threats include the risk of disease and collision with man-made structures.



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Nigel Voaden, Flickr.

4. How to get involved in Action Plan implementation

In the Resolution to adopt the Action Plan, the CMS COP calls upon all parties, non-Parties and stakeholders to implement the Action Plan as a matter of priority. To contribute to plan implementation, you could e.g.,

Visit <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home> to download a list of landbirds relevant to AEMLAP
Promote land use policies and practices that provide ecosystem services to people and benefit migrant landbirds

Contact your CMS national focal point on Action Plan implementation

Develop working partnerships with other

stakeholders including poverty alleviation initiatives

Integrate the Plan into relevant national action plans

Reach out to other multilateral environmental agreement focal points in your country to identify synergies that could benefit landbirds

Inform the AEML Working Group and/or the Migrant Landbird Study Group (using contacts provided below) of your national or regional work beneficial to landbirds including research and monitoring

More information

Visit: www.cms.int, www.migrantlandbirds.org and www.birdlife.org

You may also contact:

Alex Ngari, Flyways Officer/Coordinator of AEML Working Group; BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat, Nairobi; Alex.Ngari@Birdlife.org
Borja Heredia, Head of the Avian Species Unit; CMS Secretariat, Bonn; Borja.heredia@cms.int



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