



International Conference

Bird Conservation in the European Union:

PLANNING FOR RECOVERY ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE USE



23-24 November 2010

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels

Organized by

BirdLife International and FACE

on behalf of the European Commission

23 Nov	<b>DAY ONE</b>
9.00	<b>1.0 Opening session</b> , Chair <b>Dr Didier Vangeluwe</b> , Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences  <b>1.1 Welcoming speech</b> by <b>Mr Ladislav Miko</b> , Director for Nature in DG Environment
9.20	<b>1.2 Conference objectives and programme</b> , <b>Mr Boris Barov</b> , BirdLife Europe
9.30	<b>1.3 Setting the scene:</b> Two inspiring case studies to celebrate the success of bird conservation in the EU:
9.30-9.50	<b>Mr Georg Frank</b> , Donau-Auen National Park, Austria <i>a. The White-tailed Eagle along the Danube: building international cooperation on the successful recovery of the species</i>
9.50-10.10	<b>Dr Jesper Madsen</b> , NERI Denmark <i>b. Flyway conservation of migratory geese – a wide range of possible management strategies</i>
10.15	<b>1.4 International coordination in bird conservation</b> , needs and priorities – the perspective of the Multi-national Environmental Agreements,  <b>Ms Ivana d’Alessandro</b> , Secretary of the Bureau, CoE Berne Convention <b>Mr Sergey Dereliev</b> , Technical Officer, UNEP-AEWA
10.45	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.15	<b>2.1 Presenting the results of the project and introduction to the discussions</b> , Chair <b>Mr Angelo Caserta</b> , Regional Director, BirdLife Europe
11.20-11.50	<b>Dr Ian Burfield</b> , Science and Data Manager, BirdLife Europe <i>a. Method of prioritisation of species for conservation planning based on quantitative data<sup>1</sup>.</i>
11.50-12.20	<b>Mr Boris Barov</b> , Conservation Manager, BirdLife Europe <i>b. Taking stock of the experience with recovery plans: strengths, weaknesses and proposals for improvement<sup>2,3</sup></i>
12.20-13.00	<b>Mr Cy Griffin</b> , Biological Data Manager, FACE <i>c. The role of the Key Concepts document, proposed system for regular updating<sup>4</sup></i>
13.00	<b>Lunch break</b>

<sup>1</sup> WD “Prioritising conservation action for birds in the European Union: developing criteria for selecting species in need of EU action plans”

<sup>2</sup> WD “Guidelines on producing species recovery plans using the AEWA SSAP format”

<sup>3</sup> WD “Monitoring, review and revision of recovery plans”

<sup>4</sup> WD “The role of the Key Concepts document”

14.00	BIG ROOM	SMALL ROOM
	<b>3.1 Collaboration on data and monitoring</b> Chair <b>Dr Ruud Foppen</b> , SOVON and EBCC, Netherlands  <b>14.00-14.20</b> <b>Dr Nicholas J. Aebischer</b> , GWCT, UK <i>a. Collaboration at national level –the UK BAP and Avian Population Estimates Panel (APEP), UK</i>  <b>14.30-14.40</b> <b>Mr Simon Delany</b> , Wetlands International <i>b. International collaboration in data collection and monitoring of species the example of the International Waterbird Census and Waterbird Population Estimates</i>	<b>3.2 Stakeholder participation and acceptance</b> Chair <b>Mr Joseph Van der Stegen</b> , DG Envi  <b>Ms Sara Cabezas Díaz</b> , SEO/BirdLife's Imperial Eagle Stewardship Scheme and <b>Mr Juan Carlos Rubio Aragonés</b> <i>a. Improving habitats of the Imperial Eagle, example from Spain, Imperial Eagle Stewardship Scheme</i>  <b>Mr Guillaume Rousset</b> , ONCFS, France <i>b. How to improve the acceptance of action and management plans among key stakeholders?</i>
14.40-15.00	<b>Discussion:</b> <i>How to collect data so that everybody can agree as far as possible on the status of the species and the threats it's facing?</i> <i>How to manage data gaps when a species needs urgent action or when there is no agreement on its status?</i>	<b>Discussion:</b> <i>What motivates stakeholders to support conservation of threatened species? How to increase participation and overcome mistrustful relationships?</i>
15.00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15.30	<b>3.3. Science and species recovery</b> Chair <b>Mr David Stroud</b> , JNCC, UK	<b>3.4 Migratory birds – specific challenges</b> Chair <b>Mr Sergey Dereliev</b> , AEWA
15.30-15.50	<b>Dr Mark Eaton</b> , RSPB, UK <i>a. Use of quantitative data to set conservation objectives at national level</i>	<b>Dr Martin Wikelski</b> , Max Plank Inst. of Ornithology <i>a. Monitoring bird migration in the West Palearctic - current knowledge, methods and gaps</i>
15.50-16.10	<b>Dr Geoff Hilton</b> Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust <i>b. The role of population viability analyses and population modelling in recovery plans.</i>	<b>Dr Guy-Noël Olivier</b> , OMPO <i>b. Monitoring migratory bird populations outside of the EU- challenges</i>
16.10-16.30	<b>Mr Scott Boomer</b> , Coordinator of the Adaptive Harvest Management Working group, USFWS <i>c. The scientific and practical aspects of sustainable harvesting of populations. The experience of the US</i>	<b>Dr Martin Flade</b> , Brandenburg Environmental Agency, Chairman of the BirdLife Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team <i>c. How does international cooperation in species monitoring and conservation work in practice? The case of Memoranda of Understanding under the CMS</i>
16.30-17.00	<b>Discussion:</b> <i>How to collect data so that everybody can agree as far as possible on the status of the species and the threats it's facing?</i>	<b>Discussion:</b> <i>How to collect data so that everybody can agree as far as possible on the status of the species and the threats it's facing?</i>
17.00	<b>End of the day</b>	

DAY 2 24 Nov	BIG ROOM	SMALL ROOM
9.00	<b>4.1 Consultation and adoption of plans</b>  <b>Chair Mr Angus Middleton</b> , CEO and Director of Conservation, FACE  <b>Mr Ariel Brunner</b> , BirdLife Europe <i>a. Towards an optimal system for adoption and implementation of recovery plans by MS and on international level<sup>5</sup></i>	<b>4.2 Boosting the implementation of plans</b>  <b>Chair Dr Szabolcs Nagy</b> , Head of Biodiversity Policy, Wetlands International  <b>Mr Frank Vassen</b> , DG Env, LIFE Unit <i>a. Present and future role of LIFE in species recovery projects</i>  <b>Mr Rainer Raab</b> , Technisches Büro für Biologie  <i>b. The catalysing role of Species Conservation Teams – key drivers of plan implementation</i>
9.00-9.20		
9.30-9.50	<b>Mr Angus Middleton</b> , FACE  <i>b. What methods for consultation with stakeholders should be followed?</i>	
9.50-10.00	<b>Discussion: How to improve consultations with stakeholders on documents supporting the implementation of the Birds Directive?</b>	<b>Discussion: How should Member States support the implementation of recovery plans?</b>
10.30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11.00	<b>5. Reporting back results and recommendations from discussion sessions</b> <b>Chair Mr Micheal O'Briain</b> , DG Environment <i>3.1 Cooperation in data collection (5 min report)</i> <i>3.2 Improving stakeholder acceptance and participation (5 min report)</i> <i>3.3 Setting and monitoring against measurable plan objectives (5 min report)</i> <i>3.4 Improving monitoring of migratory birds &amp; implications to conservation and game management (5 min report)</i> <i>4.1 Making the consultation process effective (5 min report)</i> <i>4.2 Member States improve plan implementation (5 min report)</i> Drawing up recommendations and final discussion	
12.30	<b>6. Final session, conclusions and next steps</b> <b>Chair Mr Fotios Papoulias</b> , DG Environment <i>a. Review of the outcomes of the Conference (BirdLife and FACE)</i> <i>b. Future work under this contract</i> <i>c. Evaluation and feedback</i> Closing remarks	
13.15	<b>End, buffet lunch</b>	

<sup>5</sup> WD "Towards an optimal system for consultation and approval of recovery plans"

### KEY QUESTIONS to be addressed by this Conference

1. How to improve coordination between different organisations and stakeholders (international, European, national) as regards recovery plans? How to set a work programme that would avoid duplication and follow a logical sequence (plans developed at a lower level should take into account those produced previously at a higher level)?
2. How to collect and use data so that everybody can agree as far as possible on the status of the species and the threats it's facing?
3. How to raise awareness of stakeholders on the conservation status of migratory species?
4. How to fill in data gaps when a species needs urgent action or when there is no agreement on its status?
5. How to make best use of scientific data and methods to give more objectivity to the recovery plan objectives and recommendations?
6. What are the key elements of success for the recovery planning process? (selection of species, production of the document, approval, implementation, monitoring) What seems to work or not to work according to the experience of Member States and NGOs? What is the most appropriate (i.e. also high value for money) format for the recovery plans? Is there a scope for multi-species plans at EU level and in what circumstances? What are the possible options for the future?
7. How to increase the confidence in the recovery planning process? How to encourage consultation within the MS before giving an opinion? How to deal with a Plan which a MS can not agree with?
8. How to create respect and confidence between land users and conservationists and to make them work together to achieve a common objective? How to find agreement on possible sensitive actions, e.g. a hunting ban? How to take into account non-conservation stakeholders and bring them onboard? How to match recommendations set in a species recovery plan and their implementation on the field (involvement and awareness-raising of stakeholders)?
9. What should follow the approval of the Plans to boost their implementation? How translate the plans from international to national and site level for implementation? Designation of a Plan coordinator? Species conservation teams and working groups? Regular workshops?
10. Is there a scope for adaptive management of some populations in Europe? What are the possible implications and challenges? Are our monitoring, implementation and decision-making frameworks adequate for that?