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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Bern Convention Group of Experts  
on Conservation of Birds**

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**Groupe d'experts de la Convention de Berne  
sur la Conservation des Oiseaux**

Tunis (31 May 2013)

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**OVERVIEW OF THE SPECIES RECOVERY PLANS  
ENDORSED BY THE BERN CONVENTION  
AND NEED FOR UPDATE**

*Document prepared by  
BirdLife International*

## OVERVIEW OF THE SPECIES RECOVERY PLANS ENDORSED BY THE BERN CONVENTION AND NEED FOR UPDATE

### INTRODUCTION

Species Recovery Plans<sup>1</sup> (SRPs) are widely used in Europe to guide the conservation of threatened bird species. These plans are produced in a participatory way by conservationists, scientists, nature managers and relevant stakeholders and are based on the latest knowledge about the status and threats to the species. Importantly, they provide an official basis to set agreed conservation objectives and a framework of actions at the most suitable geographic scale that help to focus the conservation efforts and limited resources on the solution of the most important problems. SRPs are also a reference for fundraising and for targeting funding by public and private donors.

International action plans are mainly produced by the European Union, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds (AEWA). The preparation and implementation of recovery plans at national level is a responsibility of the national governments arising from the Convention of Biodiversity (CBD). Each country can choose its own flexible mechanism for implementing them at a national level. In some countries they are required by law, in others they are only voluntary.

It is essential for the implementation of SRPs that they are reviewed and if necessary revised on a regular basis, as part of a monitoring and evaluation exercise and not only on an international scale but also at the national level. This is not only because new scientific information comes in every day and our knowledge and understanding of each species may improve significantly over time, but also because political and economic circumstances may cause changes in threats. Also activities carried out by Governments and NGOs in the meanwhile may result in the need to re-define the priority of the actions.

The Bern Convention, being actively involved in monitoring species and encouraging conservation actions, has since 1996 endorsed 48 SRPs for threatened bird species and 8 for bird subspecies. These SRPs were endorsed by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention through the following Recommendations:

- No. 48 (1996), on the conservation of globally threatened birds in Europe;
- No. 59 (1997), on the drafting and implementation of action plans of wild fauna species;
- No. 60 (1997), on the implementation of the action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe;
- No. 61 (1997), on the conservation of the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*);
- No. 62 (1997), on the conservation of regionally threatened birds in the Macaronesian and the Mediterranean regions;
- No. 75 (1999), on the implementation of new action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe;
- No. 88 (2001), on the implementation of five new action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe;
- No. 92 (2002), on sixteen new Action Plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area;
- No. 93 (2002), on implementation of the Convention, opening and closing of files and follow-up to recommendations;
- No. 103 (2003) on five new Action Plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area;
- No. 121 (2006), on the implementation of six new action plans for most threatened birds;
- No. 124 (2007), on progress in the eradication of the Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*);
- No. 149 (2010) on the eradication of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic;

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<sup>1</sup> In this report the term Species Recovery Plans refers to Species Action Plans and Management Plans produced by the EU, AEWA and CMS.

- No. 156 (2011) on the implementation of an Action Plan for the conservation of the White-tailed Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) along the Danube.

The work on SRPs is mainly conducted through the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds that has met in 1997, 1999 and 2002. Contracting Parties are required to report on the implementation of the action plans by answering questions that refer to all the recommendations mentioned above.

So far, three reports have been produced. The reports are free-form reports and describe actions taken to implement the SRPs. The geographic coverage has however been rather incomplete due to a lack of reporting by some Contracting Parties.

This report discusses the new SRPs that have been produced since the adoption of Recommendation No. 121 (2006) on the endorsement of SRPs. To this end, first, a short description of the new SRPs is given, followed by recommendations to the Standing Committee on their adoption.

## NEW SPECIES RECOVERY PLANS

Global Red List status is based on species information from BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. <http://www.birdlife.org> Accessed on 29/04/2013

European Red List status is based on: BirdLife International. 2004. Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status. BirdLife International, Cambridge, U.K.

Species: Eurasian Spoonbill ( <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> )	
Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC) (2012) European Red List status: SPEC 2 , Rare (R) (2004)	
The Eurasian Spoonbill is a large wading bird, with long neck and legs. The bill is also long and spatulate. The species has a large discontinuous breeding range extending from the Netherlands to China, with wintering populations in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The overall population trend is uncertain, as some populations are decreasing, while others are increasing or stable.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	No Species action plan
CMS - AEWa	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Eurasian Spoonbill published in 2008 (AEWA technical series no 35)
	Weblink: <a href="http://www.unep-awea.org/publications/ssap/eurasian_spoonbill/index.htm">http://www.unep-awea.org/publications/ssap/eurasian_spoonbill/index.htm</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2008 AEWa SSAP</b>	

Species: Red Kite ( <i>Milvus milvus</i> )	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 2 , declining (D) (2004)	
The Red Kite is a medium-large bird of prey, endemic to the Western Palearctic. It is an elegant rufous colored bird, soaring on long wings, with a long forked tail, twisting as it changes direction. It breeds from Spain and Portugal east through central Europe to Ukraine, north to southern Sweden, Latvia and the UK, and south to southern Italy. Populations winter within the western breeding range, and formerly in isolated patches south and east to eastern Turkey. This species is listed as Near Threatened because it is experiencing a moderately rapid population decline, owing mostly to poisoning from pesticides and persecution, and changes in land-use amongst other threats. Despite the current rapid declines in southern Europe, it increases in northern range states.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 2010
	Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/milvus_milvus.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/milvus_milvus.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2010 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Egyptian Vulture ( <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> )	
Global Red List status: Endangered (EN) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 3 Endangered (EN) (2004)	
The Egyptian Vulture is a small vulture with a typical contrasting black and white underwing pattern and wedge-shaped tail. It is widely distributed from southwestern Europe and Africa to India. The European birds winter throughout the Sahel region of Africa. This long-lived species qualifies as Endangered owing to a recent and extremely rapid population decline in India, combined with severe long-term declines in Europe (>50% over the last three generations [42 years]) and West Africa, plus ongoing declines through much of the rest of its African range.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Single species Action plan published in 2008
	Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/neophron_percnopterus.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/neophron_percnopterus.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2008 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Red-footed Falcon ( <i>Falco vespertinus</i> )	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 3 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
The Red-footed Falcon is a small, long-winged bird of prey. The male and female have a different plumage. The Red-footed Falcon breeds in eastern Europe and west, central and north-central Asia. It winters in southern Africa, from South Africa northwards to southern Kenya. This species is listed as Near Threatened because it is experiencing a moderately rapid population decline, owing to habitat loss and degradation.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species Action plan published in 2010 Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/falco_vespertinus.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/falco_vespertinus.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2010 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> )	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 2 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
Large wader, with long bill on a relatively small head, long neck and long legs. <i>Limosa limosa</i> has a large discontinuous breeding range extending from Iceland to the Russian far east, with wintering populations in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Australasia. This species is highly gregarious and migrates on a broad front, making long-distance flights, often overland between relatively few staging and wintering areas. The available information suggests that the global population has probably declined by between 14% and 33% over the past 15 years (=3 generations).	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex II/B)	Management plan published in 2007 Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/docs/black_tailed_godwit.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/docs/black_tailed_godwit.pdf</a>
CMS - AEWa	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Black-tailed Godwit published in 2008 (AEWA technical series no 37) Weblink: <a href="http://www.unep-aewa.org/publications/ssap/bt_godwit/black-tailed_godwit_internet.pdf">http://www.unep-aewa.org/publications/ssap/bt_godwit/black-tailed_godwit_internet.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2008, AEWa SSAP</b>	

Species: European Roller ( <i>Coracias garrulus</i> )	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 2 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
The European Roller is a medium sized bird; it is mainly blue with an orange-brown back. The European Roller breeds from Morocco, south-west and south-central Europe and Asia Minor east through north-west Iran to south-west Siberia (Russia). The species overwinters in two distinct regions of Africa, from Senegal east to Cameroon and from Ethiopia west to Congo and south to South Africa. This species has apparently undergone moderately rapid declines across its global range and it is consequently considered Near Threatened. Declines have been most pronounced in northern populations.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 2008 Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/coracias_garrulus_garrulus.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/coracias_garrulus_garrulus.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2008 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Dupont's Lark ( <i>Chersophilus duponti</i> )	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 3, Depleted (H) (2004)	
Dupont's Lark is small songbird, with a long neck, long legs and a fine slightly curved bill. The species does not migrate. <i>Chersophilus duponti</i> has two subspecies: the nominate is found in Spain, Morocco and north Algeria; <i>margaritae</i> is found in Algeria, south-east Tunisia, northern Libya and coastal west Egypt. It is sparsely distributed and uncommon in most areas of its relatively small and fragmented range. This species has not been well studied across much of its range, but moderately rapid declines are known to have occurred in some areas and are suspected elsewhere.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 2008 Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/chersophilus_duponti.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/chersophilus_duponti.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2008 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Semi-collared Flycatcher ( <i>Ficedula semitorquata</i> )	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 2 Declining (D) (2004)	
The Semicollared Flycatcher is a small passerine bird. The breeding male is mainly black above and white below, with a white half-collar. Females have the black replaced by pale brown. The Semi-collared Flycatcher breeds in south-east Europe: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, FYR Macedonia, Russia and Turkey, as well as in north-eastern Iran. It winters in a comparatively small region of East Africa, from Sudan and South Sudan through western Kenya, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi to Tanzania. This poorly-studied migratory species is estimated to be undergoing a moderately rapid population decline, probably as a result of habitat loss on its breeding grounds.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species Action plan published in 2010 Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/ficedula_semitorquata.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/ficedula_semitorquata.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2010 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Bewicks' Swan ( <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> )	
Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 3W , Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
The Tundra Swan is a small Holarctic swan, with Bewick's Swan occurring in the Palaearctic. This species has an extremely large range, breeding in the Arctic. This species is fully migratory and travels on a narrow front via specific routes using well-known stop-over sites between its Arctic breeding and temperate wintering grounds. The overall population trend is uncertain, as some populations are decreasing, while others are increasing, stable or have unknown trends.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	No Species action plan
AEWA	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the the Bewicks' Swan (AEWA technical series no 44) Weblink: <a href="http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_12_draft_ssap_bewicks_swan.pdf">http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_12_draft_ssap_bewicks_swan.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2011 AEWA SSAP</b>	

Species: Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> )	
Global Red List status: Least concern (LC) (2012)	
European Red List status: not assessed (2004)	
The Greater White-fronted Goose is a medium sized goose species. The species is divided into four subspecies The Greenland White-fronted Goose breeds in western Greenland and winters in Ireland and western Scotland.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	No Species Action Plan
AEWA	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Greenland White-fronted Goose published in 2009 (AEWA technical series no 45)
	Weblink: <a href="http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_13_draft_ssap_gwgs.pdf">http://www.unep- aewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_13_draft_ssap_gwgs.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2009 AEWA SSAP</b>	

### List of Species Action Plans endorsed by the Bern Convention but revised after 2006

Species: Balearic Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> )	
Global Red List status: Critical Endangered (CR) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Critical (CR) (2004)	
<p>The Balearic Shearwater is a medium-sized shearwater, occurring at sea. The species breeds in the Balearic Islands, Spain. In winter, it occurs in the Balearic Sea and off the north-east Spanish coast with most of the population traditionally concentrated between Valencia and Catalonia from November to February, although recent data suggest that some birds remain in the Atlantic. This species has a tiny breeding range and a small population which is undergoing an extremely rapid population decline owing to a number of threats, in particular predation at breeding colonies by introduced mammals and at-sea mortality as a result of fisheries by-catch.</p>	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species Action Plan published in 1996 and revised in 2011
	Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/puffinus_puffinus_mauretanicus.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/puffinus_puffinus_mauretanicus.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 2002 (92)	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the revised 2011 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Lesser White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser erythropus</i> )	
Global Red List status: Vulnerable (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Endangered (2004)	
<p>The Lesser White-fronted Goose is a small goose closely related to the larger Greater White-fronted Goose. The Fennoscandinavian population which breeds in the Nordic countries (Norway, Finland, Sweden) and the Kola Peninsula in Russia. The Fennoscandinavian and west Asian breeders winter around the Black and Caspian Seas, in Azerbaijan, the Evros Delta between Greece and Turkey, Iraq and possibly Iran. This species is listed as Vulnerable because it has suffered a rapid population reduction in its key breeding population in Russia, and equivalent declines are predicted to continue. The Fennoscandinavian population has undergone a severe historical decline, and has not yet recovered.</p>	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species Action Plan published in 1996 and revised in 2008.
	Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/anser_erythropus.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/anser_erythropus.pdf</a>
AEWA	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (Western Palearctic Population), published in October 2008 (AEWA technical series no 36)
	Weblink: <a href="http://www.unep-awea.org/activities/working_groups/lwfg/lwfg_ssap_130109.pdf">http://www.unep-awea.org/activities/working_groups/lwfg/lwfg_ssap_130109.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996 (48)	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2008 AEWA SSAP</b>	

Species: Red-breasted Goose ( <i>Branta ruficollis</i> )	
Global Red List status: Endangered (EN) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
Unmistakable red, black and white small goose species. Red-breasted Goose breeds on the Taimyr Gydan and Yamal peninsulas, Russia. In winter, it congregates at the western Black Sea coast in Bulgaria, Romania, and in the coastal area in Ukraine. Small numbers also winter in Azerbaijan. This species has a moderately small population which appears to have declined rapidly over a short time period.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2010
	Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/branta_ruficollis.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/branta_ruficollis.pdf</a>
AEWA	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Red-breasted Goose published in 2010 (AEWA technical series no 46)
	Weblink: <a href="http://www.unep-awea.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_14_draft_ssap_rbg.pdf">http://www.unep-awea.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_14_draft_ssap_rbg.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the revised 2010 EU-AEWA SAP</b>	

Species: Marbled Teal ( <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i> )	
Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)(Western Mediterranean population)	
The Marbled Teal is a small, grey-brown dabbling duck. Brownish body flecked with creamy-brown. This species has a fragmented distribution in the western Mediterranean (Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, wintering in north and sub-Saharan West Africa), the eastern Mediterranean (Turkey, Israel, Jordan, Syria, wintering south to Egypt) and western and southern Asia. This species appears to have suffered a rapid population decline, evidenced in its core wintering range, as a result of widespread and extensive habitat destruction. The western Mediterranean population has suffered a long-term decline and widespread loss of habitat.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2008
	Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/marmaronetta_angustirostris.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/marmaronetta_angustirostris.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the revised 2008 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Spanish Imperial Eagle ( <i>Aquila adalberti</i> )	
Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Endangered (EN) (2004)	
The Spanish Imperial Eagle is a large, dark eagle. Generally dark brownish-black with prominent white "shoulders" on forewing and scapulars. The species breeds in Spain in the Sierras of Guadarrama and Gredos, the plains of the Tajo and Tiétar rivers, the central hills of Extremadura, Montes de Toledo, the Alcuía valley, Sierra Morena and the Guadalquivir marshes, with occasional nesting in Salamanca and Málaga. It does not migrate. This species qualifies as Vulnerable because it has a very small population, which is dependent on ongoing intensive management measures to mitigate the impact of threats such as poisoning, electrocution and insufficient food availability.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2008
	Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/aquila_adalberti.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/aquila_adalberti.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the revised 2008 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Lesser Kestrel ( <i>Falco naumanni</i> )	
Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Depleted (H) (2004)	
<p>The Lesser Kestrel is a small falcon. Male has grey head, uniform rusty upperparts, buff underparts with black spots. Grey band from carpal to tertials and black flight feathers. Grey tail with black subterminal band. The species breeds in southwestern and southern Europe, North Africa, Middle East and from Central Asia to Mongolia and China. Birds winter in southern Spain, southern Turkey, Malta and across much of Africa, particularly South Africa. This species underwent rapid declines in western Europe, equivalent to c.46% in each decade since 1950, on its wintering grounds in South Africa, equivalent to c.25% in each decade since 1971, and possibly in parts of its Asian range; however, recent evidence indicates a stable or slightly positive population trend overall during the last three generations. Consequently it has been downlisted from Vulnerable.</p>	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2011
	Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/falco_naumanni.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/falco_naumanni.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996 (48)	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the revised 2011 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Little Bustard ( <i>Tetrax tetrax</i> )	
Global Red List status: Near Threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
<p>The Little Bustard is a large bird in the bustard family. The breeding male is brown above and white below, with a grey head and a black neck bordered above and below by white. The Little Bustard has two widely separated breeding populations. In its eastern range it occurs in Russia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, north-west China, northern Iran and Turkey. Its western range covers Spain and Portugal, with smaller populations in Italy, France and Morocco. Eastern populations winter from Turkey and the Caucasus to Iran, and erratically elsewhere in south Asia, with Azerbaijan holding the main wintering quarters. Western populations winter in the Mediterranean zone, with the Iberian peninsula holding the most important wintering population. This species is listed as Near Threatened because it is probably experiencing a moderately rapid overall population decline, driven by rapid declines in the west of its range, owing mainly to habitat loss and degradation, as well as low-level hunting pressure.</p>	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1999 and revised in 2011
	Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/tetrax_tetrax.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/tetrax_tetrax.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 2001 (88)	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the revised 2011 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Great Bustard ( <i>Otis tarda</i> )	
Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
<p>Large, grey-and-brown bustard. Grey head and neck, brown barred black above. White underparts with reddish-brown breast-band, developing with age in males. The Great Bustard breeds in Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia and Montenegro, Romania, Turkey, Iran, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and China. Most populations are partially migratory. This species has suffered rapid population reductions across most of its range owing to the loss, degradation and fragmentation of its habitat, as well as hunting. Although populations in its Iberian stronghold have stabilised and possibly increased, hunting in Central Asia results in high rates of adult mortality, and land-use changes in eastern Europe, Russia and central Asia may have a significant impact on this species's population and the extent of its remaining habitat, such that it is likely to continue declining at a rapid rate over the next three generations.</p>	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	<p>Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2010</p> <p>Weblink:  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/otis_tarda.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/otis_tarda.pdf</a></p>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996 (48)	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the revised 2010 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Sociable Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus gregarius</i> )	
Global Red List status: Critical Endangered (CR) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Critical Endangered (CR) (2004)	
<p>Strikingly patterned plover. Adult greyish with black and chestnut belly. White supercilium and black crown and eye-stripe. The Sociable Lapwing breeds in northern and central Kazakhstan and south-central Russia, migrating to key wintering sites in Eritrea, Sudan and north-west India. This species is listed as Critically Endangered because its population has undergone a very rapid reduction, for reasons that are poorly understood; this decline is projected to continue and increase in the future.</p>	
International protection	
AEWA	<p>International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sociable Lapwing published in 2011 (AEWA technical series no 47)</p> <p>Weblink: <a href="http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_15_draft_ssap_sociable_lapwing.pdf">http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_15_draft_ssap_sociable_lapwing.pdf</a></p>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 2003 (103).	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the 2011 AEWA SSAP</b>	

Species: Aquatic Warbler ( <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> )	
Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
<p>The Aquatic Warbler is a small, heavily streaked, buff-and-black passerine. It has a pale coronal stripe with black border. The species breeds across a highly fragmented range at fewer than 50 regular breeding sites in Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Germany and Lithuania. It winters in the Sahelian belt of sub-Saharan West Africa in Senegal and in south-west Mauritania and Mali. The species probably declined rapidly until the late 1990s, as a result of the destruction of its habitat, at a rate equivalent to 40% in 10 years. It therefore qualifies as Vulnerable. The decline in the central-European core population has recently been stopped owing to intensive management and conservation projects, but the population is still widely conservation-dependent.</p>	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	<p>Species Action Plan revised in 2008 (first plan published in 1996)</p> <p>Weblink:  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/acrocephalus_paludicola.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/acrocephalus_paludicola.pdf</a></p>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996 (48)	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the revised 2008 EU SAP</b>	

Species: Azores Bullfinch ( <i>Pyrrhula murina</i> )	
Global Red List status: Endangered (EN) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Endangered (EN) (2004)	
This songbird is a medium-sized, plump, short-winged, long-tailed, dull coloured finch. Black cap and facial area, tail and wings. The Azores Bullfinch is endemic to the Azores, Portugal, where it is confined to the east of the island of São Miguel. This species is listed as Endangered as it occurs at only one locality and has a very small range, within which the quality of habitat is thought to be decreasing due the spread of invasive plant species.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2010
	Weblink: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/pyrrhula_murina.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/pyrrhula_murina.pdf</a>
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996 (48)	
Recommendation: <b>endorsement of the revised 2010 EU SAP</b>	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Contracting Parties and observer States to the Convention are invited to:

- endorse the SRPs listed below

*Platalea leucorodia*

(*Milvus milvus*)

(*Neophron percnopterus*)

*Falco vespertinus*

(*Limosa limosa*)

*Coracias garrulous*

*Chersophilus duponti*

*Ficedula semitorquata*

- Since 2006 plans have been developed by AEWA for two subspecies and are also ready for endorsement by the Bern Convention

*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

(*Anser albifrons flavirostris*)

- draw up and/or review and implement national recovery plans or other relevant measures, as appropriate, on the species for which the international recovery plans are mentioned
- take note of the International Species Management Plan for the Svalbard Population of the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) produced by AEWA and the European Union is reviewing

We would like to inform the Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention that since 2006, the following Species Action Plans have been revised:

*Puffinus mauretanicus*

*Anser erythropus*

*Branta ruficollis*

*Marmaronetta angustirostris*

*Aquila adalberti*

*Falco naumanni*

*Tetrax tetrax*

*Otis tarda*

*Vanellus gregarius*

*Acrocephalus paludicola*

*Pyrrhula murina*