



Strasbourg, 29 April 2013  
[Inf09e\_2013.doc]

**T-PVS/Inf (2013) 9**

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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Tunis (31 mai 2013)

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**INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION  
ON SPECIES RECOVERY PLANS**

**- Background document -**

*Document submitted  
by BirdLife International*

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## **INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION ON SPECIES RECOVERY PLANS**

### **- Background document -**

The awareness of the importance of bird species recovery plans is growing worldwide. Conventions dealing with nature conservation are using this conservation and campaigning tool more intensively so as to involve stakeholders in the active protection of species. In the field of bird species' Recovery Plans the Bern Convention, the European Commission, AEWA, Raptors MoU & AEMLAP (CMS), and the NGOS are all taking a number of initiatives. However, currently there is little coordination at the international level.

The European countries and Institutions have nearly 20 years of experience in developing and implementing bird species' Recovery Plans. Some of this experience has led to the best-known conservation success stories in the continent. However, successful achievement of both the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy requires further strengthening of species' recovery efforts, as some of the key targets will depend on that. In 2013 a report was prepared by BirdLife International for the European Commission under service Contract ENV.B.2./SER/2009/0076r "Scientific and technical assistance supporting the implementation of the Birds Directive". The contract was implemented by BirdLife International, with the Federation of Associations of Hunting and Conservation in the EU (FACE) as sub-contractor. The report can be downloaded here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action\\_plans/docs/final\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/final_report.pdf)

One of the outcomes of the project was a draft Terms of Reference for a coordination group for bird species' conservation planning. This document can be used for the further discussion.

The Bern Convention Group of Experts on the conservation of Birds is therefore requested to discuss the following items:

- the role of the Bern Convention in the species' conservation planning;
- Possible reporting mechanism for Parties and stakeholders;
- How to ensure that for migratory species the countries along the whole flyway can be involved?
- should the development of international species recovery plans be targeted only on threatened species?
- Is there an added value for Parties and stakeholders to work with group species Action Plans instead of individual species Action Plans?

➤ **Annex 1**

**Draft Terms of Reference European Coordination Group**

**Annex IV to METHODOLOGY FOR BIRD SPECIES RECOVERY PLANNING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

(BirdLife International, March 2012 downloaded from [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action\\_plans/docs/final\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/final_report.pdf))

(Informal) European Coordination Group for bird species conservation planning)

**Aims:**

To coordinate the planning and implementation of bird conservation in the African-Eurasian flyway, with a view to facilitating the implementation of priority bird conservation actions by range states, including:

- Prioritisation of the species in need of conservation action plans;
- Funding the development and implementation of action plans;
- Commissioning the development, review and revision of plans;
- Consultation among Member States and Contracting Parties;
- Endorsement of the plans.
- Reporting, monitoring the implementation and revision of approved plans;

**Objectives:**

1. To coordinate the prioritisation of species that should be the subject of new and revised species action plans and management plans;
2. To agree on lead body to manage the production and implementation of plans;
3. To coordinate the (timetable for) production, consultation and approval of SAPs/SMPs.
4. To coordinate the implementation of SAPs/SMPs eg through Species Working Groups established under the remits mirroring those outlined in 2.

**Membership:**

Representatives of Raptors MoU, AEWA, Bern Convention, CMS, European Commission as well as the NGOs BirdLife International, FACE, Wetlands International, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust.

**Secretary:**

Secretarial functions including the organisation of meetings, preparation of documentation and maintaining a record of the decisions shall be provided by BirdLife International. Archiving webspace and document exchange could be provided by any of the member's IT facilities.

**Meetings:**

At least one per annum, in the most practical way in view of opportunities to meet in person. Intersessionally the group will communicate via e-mail or phone.