



AEWA EURASIAN CURLEW INTERNATIONAL
WORKING GROUP



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**1st Meeting of the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group
- *N. a. arquata* Breeding Range States –**

4-6 September 2018, Aberlady, Scotland (UK)

Work plan for the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group 2018-2021 (*N. a. arquata* Breeding range states)

Introduction

The AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group is charged with coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan.

In order to increase the implementation of key international conservation actions for the species, the Working Group has developed and adopted a work plan for the next inter-sessional period. This will not only allow for better and more timely planning of and fundraising for activities, but also for a more coherent overall implementation of the Action Plan.

A final version was prepared by the Coordinator following the meeting and was sent to all participants for review, including those government representatives and Principle Range States not present at the meeting.

It should be noted that such workplans are rolling documents meant to support the implementation of AEWA International Species Action Plans and as such do not constitute additional binding obligations for the Range States concerned - beyond their existing obligations under the Agreement and the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Eurasian Curlew.

DRAFT work plan for the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group 2018-2021 (*N. a. arquata* Breeding range states)

Project/activity	Priority	Timeframe	Lead	Detailed actions	Budget	Comments
Activities delivering towards Result 1.1. "Important breeding sites for Eurasian Curlew are appropriately protected and managed"						
Explore opportunities to seek new resource at important breeding sites. This will include seeking funding opportunities that could support new Project Officers to coordinate conservation and monitoring work at important breeding sites, building on the success of previous projects e.g. the INTERREG-funded Halting Environmental Loss Project (HELP).	HIGH	2019	Dan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DB to contact each IWG range state member to assess potential needs for each country or region 2. DB to incorporate this information into the wider funding leaflet (see later in workplan) 3. DB to speak to fundraising colleagues about potential funding sources and decide next steps from there 4. DB to assess costs of such projects through speaking to staff involved in similar projects in the past 		<p>Interreg project?</p> <p>Every country has different priorities.</p> <p>Enlarging this community to include wider range of meadow birds (Godwit, Dunlin etc.).</p>
Activities delivering towards Result 1.2. "Important staging, stopover, and wintering sites for Eurasian Curlew are appropriately protected and managed"						
Maintain action, and where considered beneficial, extend appropriate protection measures, including monitoring.	ONGOING	rolling	IWG members		In-kind contribution from IWG members	Using existing conservation frameworks in each country
Activities delivering towards Result 2.1. "The impact of farming operations on breeding success is minimised and beneficial farming practices are supported and encouraged"						
Develop and distribute Rural Development Programme guidance for the breeding range states. The target audience will be stakeholders involved in rural policy formation and the guidance will be focussed within the context of upcoming agricultural policy reform.	IMMEDIATE	October-December 2019	Barry	Prepare draft guidance and circulate to IWG members for comment.	n/a	
		January 2019	Barry, Dan	Organize meeting in early 2019 between key Curlew and agriculture experts to discuss and further refine guidance		
		April 2019	Dan, AEWA, all IWG members	Disseminate agreed guidance to all breeding range states at various levels of government, stakeholders etc. before the start of the 2019 breeding season	In-kind contribution from IWG members	
Continue to increase our understanding of fine-scale habitat usage by Curlew on their breeding	HIGH	2019.	Rachel	Rachel to draft up summary text for the external funding document and estimation of project budgets.		Linked to understanding why they are not producing enough young.

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grounds, to help inform future conservation land management options.						
Activities delivering towards Result 2.2. "Land management techniques that reduce levels of nest and chick predation to those associated with stable or increasing populations are promoted and investigated"						
Collate and exchange available information on the effect predation is having on productivity.	HIGH	2019-	Jutta/Marc (IWSG)	To be drafted by Mark and Jutta		Including identifying remaining gaps in knowledge and needs for further research such as the role of landscape changes Link up to Conservation Evidence
Increase knowledge on food quality and availability for chicks (decline of insects etc.).	HIGH	2019-	Jutta/Marc (IWSG)	To be drafted by Mark and Jutta		
Activities delivering towards Results 3.1. "Any harvest, if undertaken, is sustainable"						
Analysis/assessment of potential Curlew "management units" based on available data (ring recoveries etc.)	IMMEDIATE	Sept-Nov 2018	France, whereby work is suggested to be commissioned outside of France	Develop brief ToR in consultation with IWG?	n/a	i.e. which birds are affected by hunting in France
				Commission analysis/assessment	tbc	
Convene a flyway level process for AHM with all relevant range states	IMMEDIATE	Sept-Nov 2018	France, AEWA Secretariat	Establish timeframe/ roadmap for the process (what should happen when, what is needed – potential meeting in France to present process with AHM experts etc.)	n/a	
		Dec 2019	France, AEWA Secretariat	Curlew side-meeting with relevant range states at the AEWA MOP	tbc	
		1 st quarter 2019	France, AEWA Secretariat	Convene first meeting with relevant range states and experts/stakeholders	n/a	
Activities delivering towards Results 4.2. "The necessary data and information required to make a better understanding of N. a. arquata and N. a. orientalis populations in Russia is obtained."						

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Increase monitoring efforts in Russia on the basis of agreed monitoring guidelines.	HIGH	2019-	Tatiana	<i>NOTE: Tatiana to put together more detailed suggestions for activities in Russia and send to Dan and Nina</i>	tbc	
Activities delivering towards Results 4.3. "Survey, monitoring and research activities on <i>N. a. arquata</i> are undertaken to address knowledge gaps and improve population and demographic gaps"						
Agree standard guidance for productivity monitoring	IMMEDIATE	Ahead of next breeding season	Jutta – (connected to predation via the IWSG)		In-kind contribution from IWG members	
Using the above, commit to undertake productivity monitoring at a sample of sites across most breeding range states in order to increase our collective understanding of population and demographic trends across the breeding range	IMMEDIATE	For next breeding season	All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage existing staff at nature reserves, wader conservation projects etc to incorporate this into their work programme, noting the high priority status of curlew and the fact that other planned survey work might have to be dropped in order to enable it to occur. 2. Advertise for volunteers to help undertake these surveys 	In-kind contribution from IWG members	<p>DAN: come up with something that already takes into account existing data.</p> <p>Camilla: not monitoring breeding, only wintering – would require new resources</p> <p>Marc: what is the need for the productivity data, where are you going to use this data?</p> <p>Danny: discussion to be had</p> <p>Marc: suggest something in workplan already</p> <p>Barry: we should be doing (recognizing the benefit of annual monitoring – taking into account)</p> <p>Rachel: take appropriate samples of stable isotopes - build up atlas to define breeding and moulting sites. Would contribute beautifully into all the other monitoring. Something everyone would have to do together.</p>

Project/activity	Priority	Timeframe	Lead	Detailed actions	Budget	Comments
Activities delivering towards Results 4.4. "The impact of other poorly-understood threats is investigated"						
Share and collate information on ongoing, planned and completed satellite-tracking and colour-ringing of Eurasian Curlew amongst the IWG range states	HIGH	Before 2019 breeding season	Dan - with support from ALL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruit a volunteer to coordinate this work (volunteer has now been recruited) 2. Volunteer to contact experts over the winter 2019/20 to obtain and collate data and views 3. Publish report of known studies, known migration patterns and recommendations for where it would be best to focus tracking studies in the future. 		<p>what are the priorities for tracking? We need to agree a prioritization for where the knowledge gaps are. Good for donors.</p> <p>Sharing results, not raw data</p> <p>connectivity on migratory scale + on local scale</p> <p>IWSG is already doing this for colour-ringing.</p> <p>Dan – what is coming at low cost!</p> <p>Curlew APP with calls. Mary</p>
Undertake collation of poorly understood threats – define priority research areas. (senescence, human disturbance etc.)	Medium	2019-	Jutta/IWSG			Details for collaboration between IWG and IWSG to be discussed
Over-arching activities						
Discuss framework for future delivery of the EC ISSAP by identifying areas of overlap and the roles of the IWSG, the BTG ISSAP & IWG, the EU MSAP for waders and a possible Friends of the Curlew.	HIGH	Early 2019	AEWA Secretariat	Liaise with Commission, BirdLife International, AEWA BTG IWG, IWSG etc. on how to align various processes	n/a	
Implement additional awareness-raising activities	High	November-December 2018	Dan, Nina	Launch AEWA Eurasian Curlew IWG website		

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	High	November-December 2018	Barry, Nina	Produce short video highlighting plight of Curlew in Ireland in time for AEWA MOP		
	Medium		Nicola/BirdLife International, Mary Colwell	Friends of the Curlew concept to be developed.		Linked to World Curlew Day Stand-alone funding proposal: Friends of the Curlew online portal. LIFE communication project (match-fund up to 60%). If and when the MSAP is adopted, there could be a portal that deals with all waders – including Curlew. Could inform the site managers, stakeholders as well as the general public.
	Medium		Jutta?	focus on awareness-raising. Meadow-bird friendly products		
Include Eurasian Curlew in CMS Family Champions Programme	High	October-November 2018	Dan, Nina			