



**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the AEWA White-winged Flufftail International Working Group**  
5–7 November 2019, Dullstroom, South Africa

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**Implementation Plan 2015-2018<sup>1</sup>**

for the CMS/AEWA International Single Species Action Plan

for the Conservation of the White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresi*)

**List of use abbreviations**

AEWA – African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement  
BLSA – BirdLife South Africa  
CMS – Convention on Migratory Species  
DEA – Department of Environmental Affairs (South Africa)  
ET - Ethiopia  
EWCA – Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority  
EWNHS - Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society  
ISSAP – International Single Species Action Plan  
IWG – International Working Group  
MEF – Ministry of Environment and Forest  
MWT – Middelpunt Wetland Trust  
NGO – Non-governmental Organisation  
NZG – National Zoological Gardens  
OFWE – Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise  
ORLAEPB - Oromia Rural Land Administration and Environmental Protection Bureau  
SSG – Site Support Group  
ZA – South Africa

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<sup>1</sup> This Implementation Plan was developed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the AEWA White-winged Flufftail International Working Group meeting on 10-12 August 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the basis of the CMS/AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-winged Flufftail (December 2008) and was endorsed by the IWG members by correspondence in December 2015.

ISSAP activity	Country	Means of implementation (actions)	Responsible for implementation (others to be involved)	Funding needs / source	Priority	Timeline / deadline
<b>1.1 Designate all qualifying sites as Ramsar sites</b>	<b>ET</b>	1.1.1 Encourage the accession of Ethiopia to the Ramsar Convention, with Berga wetland as one of the Ramsar sites to be designated upon accession.	EWCA (EWCA and EWNHS serve on Ramsar Task Force in Ethiopia in consultation with MEF)	NA	High	Mid 2016
	<b>ZA</b>	1.1.2 Designate Ingula Nature Reserve as a Ramsar site.	DEA	NA	High	Mid 2016
	<b>ZA</b>	1.1.3 Clarify whether Middelpunt can be designated as a Ramsar site (under the stewardship process).	DEA	NA	High	2015
	<b>ZA</b>	1.1.4 If yes for the clarification above, then set up a process and timelines for designation of Middelpunt as a Ramsar site.	DEA	NA	High	Mid 2016
<b>1.2 Engage local communities in seeking local solutions to habitat destruction through community-based habitat conservation initiatives</b>	<b>ET</b>	1.2.1 Formalise the community-based programme that is ongoing at Berga under the umbrella of Oromia local government, through the development of a document that is approved by the local government as an official, community-based initiative.	EWCA in consultation with EWNHS and local government offices, OFWE		Critical	
		<i>a) Scoping document (5–10 pages) to be drafted outlining the process, including stakeholder identification and also identifies responsible parties, timeframes, funding sources, procedural matters of approval for document.</i>	EWNHS (with assistance from AEWa and MWT)	NA	Critical	Early 2016
		<i>b) Fundraising for facilitated workshop to be held involving all stakeholders and running of process.</i>	EWCA	\$15 000 to \$20 000	Critical	Early 2017
		<i>c) Document approved at appropriate level in government.</i>	EWCA		Critical	End 2018

<b>1.3 Designate all sites under national protected area legislation</b>	<b>ZA</b>	1.3.1 Declare Middelpunt and Wakkerstroom as protected areas under stewardship initiatives.	DEA with provincial conservation agencies		High	End 2018
	<b>ET</b>	1.3.2 Declare Berga as a protected area. EWCA initiates a process of designation.	EWCA involving OFWE		Critical	End 2018
<b>1.4 Facilitate enforcement of legislation to stop cultivation inside the breeding wetlands</b>	<b>ET</b>	1.4.1 EWCA to alert regional offices ORLAEPB and OFWE to enforce legislation to prevent cultivation at the breeding wetlands.	EWCA		Critical	End 2015
	<b>ET</b>	1.4.2. Develop a monitoring process and implement it to ensure that legislation is enforced.	EWCA		Critical	Mid 2016 and rolling implementation / monitoring process
<b>1.5 Design and implement site management plan(s)</b>	<b>ZA</b>	1.5.1 Examine each existing Site Management Plan (Nature Reserves and sites under stewardship) and establish whether there are appropriate measures for the White-winged Flufftail's conservation.	DEA and BLSA		High	End 2016
	<b>ZA</b>	1.5.2. Amend the existing Site Management Plans accordingly, if necessary	DEA (with provincial conservation authorities)		High	End 2017
	<b>ZA</b>	1.5.3 Develop a Best Practice guidance document for management of White-winged Flufftail sites (in line with SANBI guidelines for wetland protection).	BLSA		High	End 2017
	<b>ET</b>	1.5.4. Amend the existing customary wetland usage agreement to be included in the formalising of the community-based habitat conservation initiatives (under activity 1.2 above).	EWCA supported by EWNHS		Critical	Early 2017
	<b>ET</b>	1.5.5 Develop a legislated Site Management Plan once Berga has been designated under national protected area legislation (activity 1.3 above).	EWCA		Critical	End 2018
<b>1.6 Prevent any change to the species' habitat arising from dam building</b>	<b>ET and ZA</b>	NA				
<b>1.7 Stop pollution of wetlands caused by</b>	<b>ET and ZA</b>	NA				

<b>humans and agriculture</b>						
<b>1.8 Prevent mining which will affect the species' habitat</b>	<b>ZA</b>	1.8.1 When necessary, intervene at developments, use the AEWA - IRP and Ramsar Advisory Mission processes, as appropriate	DEA, BLSA, MWT		Critical	Ongoing
<b>1.9 Prevent development that will affect the species' habitat</b>	<b>ET and ZA</b>	1.9.1 Undertake pro-active monitoring for potential development proposals. NGOs to establish a comprehensive and routine system to track development proposals, take possible and adequate measures as well as notify EWCA and DEA.	EWCA and EWNHS; DEA, BLSA and MWT		Critical	Ongoing
		1.9.2 Act immediately to proposals to prevent negative impacts from development which will affect the species' habitat	EWCA and EWNHS; DEA, BLSA and MWT		Critical	Ongoing
<b>1.10 Develop and implement schemes for managing grazing pressure at all sites</b>	<b>ET and ZA</b>	Refer to activity 1.5				
<b>1.11 Develop and implement suitable burning regimes at relevant sites</b>	<b>ET and ZA</b>	Refer to activity 1.5				
<b>1.12 Secure reserves in the western parts of Greater Harare, Zimbabwe</b>	<b>NA</b>	NA				
<b>2.1 Maintain non-issuance of snipe-hunting permits at breeding sites</b>	<b>ET</b>	2.1.1 Maintain non-issuance of snipe-hunting permits (illegal hunting of snipe to be dealt with by the management plan to be developed under activity 1.5).	EWCA		Medium	Ongoing
<b>2.2 Develop and implement site visitation protocol for birdwatchers at the species' sites</b>	<b>ET and ZA</b>	2.2.1 To be included in activity 1.5 above (include in site management plans and best practice guidance). No birdwatching should be permitted at Berga during the breeding season.	EWCA supported by EWNHS; BLSA and MWT			
<b>2.3 Implement community-run</b>	<b>ET and ZA</b>	Refer to activity 1.5 (site management plan)				

prevention of access to sites during the breeding season by resource users						
<b>Objective 3: To prevent nest destruction caused by unnatural factors</b>	<b>ET</b>	Refer to activities 1.2, 1.10 and 2.3				
<b>4.1 Facilitate the enforcement of legislation to stop afforestation inside the breeding wetlands</b>	<b>ET</b>	4.1.1 Enquire with MEF and OFWE whether regulations exist to stop afforestation inside the breeding wetlands	EWCA		High	End 2015
<b>4.2 Contribute to the regulation of afforestation and other activities that may affect the wetlands and watersheds of the species' sites</b>	<b>ET</b>	4.2.1 Encourage responsible institutions (MEF and OFWE) to develop legislation to manage afforestation	EWCA		Medium	End 2016
		Also include above in activities 1.2 and 1.5	EWCA supported by EWNHS			
<b>5.1 Undertake genetic and isotopic investigations to determine if there are multiple populations of the species</b>	<b>ZA</b>	5.1.1 Initial genetic investigation completed to determine whether the two populations in South Africa and Ethiopia are isolated. Next steps will include next generation sequencing and disease (MHC etc) testing through genomic sequencing.	NZG, BLSA and MWT	NZG	High	End 2015
	<b>ZA and ET</b>	5.1.2 Protocol (describing sampling methodology and standardisation of collecting methods) to be developed for sampling of live and injured birds as well as samples collected from dead birds. Preservation of specimens and all materials will also be covered in this protocol.	NZG and BLSA to take lead in development, EWCA to approve sampling protocol		High	End 2015
	<b>ZA and ET</b>	5.1.3 Train field workers once protocol has been developed including transfer of knowledge.	NZG, BLSA, MWT and EWCA		High	Mid 2016
<b>6.1 Design and implement a scientific study to identify</b>		Awaiting suitable methodology				

<b>migration routes and stop-over sites of the species</b>						
<b>7.1 Design and implement a scientific study to undertake a thorough assessment of habitat requirements, including the understanding of the hydrological functioning of the plateau floodplains.</b>	<b>ZA</b>	7.1.1 Understanding the key ecological requirements of White-winged Flufftail at Middelpunt Wetland (MSc study).	BLSA (with University of Witwatersrand)	DEA?	High	End 2017
	<b>ET</b>	7.1.2 Camera trap study to be initiated at Berga wetland during the breeding season over two breeding seasons	EWCA, EWNHS supported by MWT	MWT/ BLSA/ Kranskop Dierekliniek	Medium	End 2017
<b>8.1 Identify and explore potential sites in South Africa and Ethiopia</b>	<b>ZA and ET</b>	8.1.1 Undertake Maxent distribution modelling	BLSA in collaboration with academic institutions		High	End 2016
	<b>ET</b>	8.1.2 Check existing sites for presence of birds	EWNHS, EWCA		High	Ongoing to end 2018
	<b>ET</b>	8.1.3 Further check for new sites in south western regions of Ethiopia	EWCA, EWNHS		Medium	Ongoing to end 2018
<b>8.2 Confirm suspected localities in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Rwanda</b>		On hold				
<b>8.3 Undertake comprehensive assessment of the state of the dambo ecosystems in the western parts of greater Harare, Zimbabwe</b>		On hold				
<b>9.1 Develop a suitable census technique to determine population sizes and trends</b>	<b>ET (and ZA)</b>	9.1.1 Obtain confirmed calls in order to assist with censusing	BLSA, MWT, EWNHS			Ongoing until end of 2018

<b>9.2 Perform coordinated censuses at all sites</b>		9.2.1 Awaiting confirmation of call to inform development of suitable census techniques (see above)				
<b>10.1 Design and implement a scientific study to determine the species' breeding biology</b>	<b>ET</b>	Refer to camera trap study in activity 7.1	EWCA, EWNHS supported by MWT			
<b>11.1 Design and implement a scientific study to identify the population determinants</b>	<b>ET and ZA</b>	Refer to activity 7.1 above.	EWCA, EWNHS supported by MWT			
<b>11.2 Undertake population modelling</b>	<b>ET and ZA</b>	Refer to activity 7.1 above.	EWCA, EWNHS supported by MWT			
<b>12.1 Conduct modelling exercise</b>	<b>ZA</b>	12.1.1 Include with Maxent Distribution Modelling (refer to activity 8.1 above)	BLSA (with academic institutions)			
<b>13.1 Compile and disseminate species information</b>	<b>ET</b>	13.1.1 Factsheet produced to reach local communities at breeding wetlands providing detailed information on the species and its importance to increase recorded sightings	EWNHS (supported by MWT)	MWT (cover printing of factsheets)	Medium	Mid 2016
	<b>ET and ZA</b>	13.1.2 Sensitise decision makers on the threats and the needs of the White-winged Flufftail	MWT, BLSA, EWNHS, DEA and EWCA		High	Ongoing to end of 2018
	<b>ET and ZA</b>	13.1.3 Develop marketing, awareness and communications plan for both Ethiopia and South Africa	MWT (supported by BLSA, EWNHS)		High	Early 2016
<b>13.2 Support and expand SSGs and their activities</b>	<b>ET</b>	Refer to activity 1.2 above				