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International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Black-winged Pratincole

Glareola nordmanni

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landbouw, natuur en voedselkwaliteit

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AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF

AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATEBIRDS

INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE

Glareola nordmanni

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Contents

Foreword

by

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Species Action Plans and Species Recovery Plans are one of the most important tools in conservation of biological diversity. By focussing the attention on the fate and problems of a particular threatened species, many other issues come to light: the effects that agriculture, urban development or pollution are having on nature, the interconnection of species, habitats and management, and the complexities of ecological processes. In a time where most conservation efforts in Europe are faithfully devoted to habitat protection in the hopeful wish that it will automatically yield species conservation, looking at the precise case of some species is highly revealing and can tell us where to address in priority scarce conservation resources.

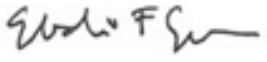
The conservation community recognises the valuable approach on species conservation that led to the US "Endangered Species Act" and the World Conservation Union "action plans" promoted by the Species Survival Commission. In Europe we succeeded in setting European standards for species action plans through the adoption, by the Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) of its "Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the drafting and implementation of action plans for wild fauna species". This recommendation established standards for the legal and administrative aspects of action plans, for the identification of species requiring special conservation attention, for the technical aspects related to the drafting of action plans (contents, goals, priorities, funding) and for their monitoring and update.

One of the key issues of action plans is the need for international co-operation. Conservation of most species has at present become transboundary and one of the reasons why collaboration between government, international conventions and NGOs is the key to success.

It is in this context that I am particularly glad to welcome the publication of the Species Action Plans for Sociable Lapwing, Great Snipe and Black-winged Pratincole, which are a joint effort of BirdLife International, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Bern Convention. Other organisations such as the European Commission, the Ramsar Convention and the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas of the Barcelona Convention will also play an important role in the implementation of these plans.

For the Bern Convention, these three plans adopted in 2003 have followed 45 other action plans adopted since 1996 on other bird species the implementation of which is monitored by a special expert group set up by the Standing Committee to the Convention.

It is my firm belief that all this detailed technical and political work is serving to guide action on the ground and is helping many governments takes the sometimes-hard decisions needed.



Eladio Fernández-Galiano
Bern Convention Secretariat

Foreword

by

Bert Lenten

Executive Secretary

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) is one of the youngest intergovernmental treaties, which was concluded in 1995 and entered into force on 1st November 1999. The Agreement has an ambitious goal to provide protection to and maintain in a favourable conservation status populations of 235 species of migratory birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, including many species of pelicans, storks, flamingos, swans, geese, ducks, waders, gulls, terns and others. All together 117 countries fall within the Agreement area and so far 48 Contracting Parties throughout Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa have acceded to AEWA.

International Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) are being developed to find out more about populations of species with an unfavourable conservation status throughout their whole range, to identify underlying threats and more importantly to roster all necessary conservation measures in a systematic and structured way. This information is crucial to tackle the problems that have caused and are still causing decline of these species and to allow action to be taken to improve their status in the long term. Such International SSAPs for the most threatened species or populations are required by article 2.2.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan and can only be developed and effectively implemented in close cooperation with Governments, Intergovernmental Organisations and NGOs.

These International Single Species Action Plans for the Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*, the Great Snipe *Gallinago media* and the Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* have been elaborated in conjunction with the Bern Convention and BirdLife International. This is the first set of officially released SSAPs for species listed in AEWA Table 1, and all three plans were adopted under Resolution 2.13 at the Second Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA in Bonn, 25-27 September 2002.

The Sociable Lapwing, the Great Snipe and the Black-winged Pratincole have been identified as birds that show a significant long-term decline and are therefore in need of special attention. They share similar breeding habitat requirements and are subject to similar threats, i.e. habitat loss and degradation due to conversion of their habitats to intensive agriculture, predation and human disturbance. The Sociable Lapwing is the most threatened of the three species. For a long time it has been listed on the IUCN Red List in the category "Vulnerable", and is in AEWA Table 1, Column A under Category 1a, 1b and 1c. This list indicates that the species is included in Appendix I of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, is listed as threatened in Threatened Birds of the World (BirdLife International 2000) and that the population numbers less than about 10,000 individuals. Recently, due to its rapidly worsening population status it was reclassified in the category "Critically Endangered" of the IUCN Red List.

I strongly believe that the Range States involved will make every effort to implement these SSAPs, that they will transform them into National Action Plans and will work together to halt the decline in the populations of these species in the future. I very much hope that the measures described in these plans will be implemented in reality, and will trigger the recovery of the populations of these three bird species to a favourable conservation status.

Bert Lenten
UNEP/ AEWA Secretariat

Foreword

by

Canan Orhun
Head of European Division Office
BirdLife International

Biodiversity, including bird species, is continuing to decline at an accelerating rate. We need to work along different lines that include the establishment of an effective network of protected sites, integrate environment conservation in all relevant policies and improve awareness of the importance of biodiversity.

Only with the correct information on each species' biology and on the causes of its decline, is it possible to define adequate conservation activities for each one. Species action plans are the tools for gathering information, identifying actions and targets we need to achieve to allow the next generation to enjoy at least the same level of biodiversity we do.

BirdLife International has been developing and promoting the species action plans since 1995 when the first plans were developed with the financial support of the European Union and were endorsed and published by the Council of Europe.

BirdLife International always works in cooperation with international treaties in the development and endorsement of the species action plans. The Bern Convention, Bonn Convention (CMS), African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the European Union are the fora for cooperation resulting in commitments by national governments and NGOs to translate the documents into concrete conservation actions.

The development of the actions plans for the Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*, the Great Snipe *Gallinago media* and the Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* have been possible thanks to the support given to BirdLife International by AEWA and the co-operation of the Bern Convention. We are most grateful to both for this.

The plans have been drawn up through an extensive consultation of experts across the geographical scope of the documents and specific workshops. The format of these action plans is different from the format of those developed in the past. This new format results in documents which are more results-oriented and where the tasks are more clearly linked to threats and targets and set against a clear calendar.

BirdLife International is working with AEWA, the Bern Convention and the European Union to streamline the endorsement and monitoring of the implementation of the action plans and promote cooperation and synergies between Governmental and Non-Governmental organisations.

I am confident that these action plans, like those developed in the last nine years, will soon yield results. BirdLife International, in cooperation with AEWA and several other supporters is already working on the ground implementing the Sociable Lapwing action plan, and hopes that others will join to implement the most urgent actions for all threatened species.

Canan Orhun
BirdLife International

Preface

This International Action Plan for the Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* was commissioned by the Secretariat of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the European Division of BirdLife International, and was prepared by the Russian Bird Conservation Union (BirdLife International Partner Designate in Russia). The first draft was sent out to experts on the species and its conservation, and then discussed on 3 March 2002 at the Workshop on the Black-winged Pratincole held in Moscow. All comments and suggestions, as well as outputs from the workshop, were incorporated into the second draft of the Action Plan, also distributed to all contributors. This version is the final output of all the above consultations.

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Summary

What is the profile of the Black-winged Pratincole?

The Black-winged Pratincole breeds mainly in the steppe and desert belt of Eurasia from Romania and Ukraine in the west to the Russian part of the Altai and to Kazakhstan in the east. It winters in Africa south of the Sahara desert. Migration through the Middle East countries such as Turkey, Iran, Iraq, etc. is probably transit/flyover, and takes place at high altitudes; as a result the Black-winged Pratincole is seldom recorded in this region. Population decline of the Black-winged Pratincole started in the end of 19th century, and became more evident in the second half of the 20th century. In recent years, starting from the 1980s-1990s, a marked population decline again took place: in 10 years numbers decreased by half or two thirds. Currently the total population of the Black-winged Pratincole is unlikely to exceed 10,000-15,000 pairs. The Black-winged Pratincole is classified as "Data Deficient" (BirdLife International 2004) at global level, and "Endangered, SPEC 1" at European level (BirdLife International 2004). It is however not included at all either in the Red Data Book of Asia or in the list of Globally Threatened Species, probably because of far too optimistic interpretation of species numbers The species is included in Appendix II of the Bonn Convention and in Appendix II of the Bern Convention. The Black-winged Pratincole is listed in Table 1, Column A in categories 3b and 3c of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).

Why an international Action Plan for the Black-winged Pratincole?

As a result of a dramatic population decline during the 20th century, the Black-winged Pratincole is now facing the threat of extinction. Precise reasons for this steep decline in numbers in recent decades are at the moment not known, so it is difficult to plan specific actions for conservation of the species. The situation is further complicated by the nomadic distribution of the Black-winged Pratincole, and the fact that these birds change breeding sites/areas. There is also an urgent need for the Black-winged Pratincole Action Plan because this species is closely associated with “secondary” man-made habitats, where human activities are very intense.

What is the basis of the Action Plan?

The Action Plan is based on studies and analyses of the Black-winged Pratincole populations, primarily within its European breeding range (Dementiev & Gladkov 1951, Kistjakovski 1957, Dolgushin 1962, Molodan 1988, 1994, Belik 1994, 1998, 2001, Belik & Tomkovich 1997, Garmash 1998). This is because it is assumed that the reproduction period is the most critical phase for this species, and that the overall population dynamics depend first of all on the annual breeding success and species productivity. Additional consultations and input into the Action Plan are needed to assess and evaluate the situation in the Asian and African parts of the species’ range.

What is the objective of the Action Plan?

The general objective of the Plan is to ensure that the population of the Black-winged Pratincole becomes stable or increases as a result of conservation initiatives, which take into account habitat requirements of the species (primarily in breeding areas) as well as the interests of local agricultural communities.

What does the Action Plan consist of?

The Action Plan presents a framework for conservation and restoration of the Black-winged Pratincole and its habitats. Measurable objectives are set at national and international level, taking into account management options for each country.

Which countries are involved?

Implementation of the Action Plan requires effective international co-ordination of actions. This is especially important for countries within which the main part of the species’ breeding range lies (Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine), and for the wintering range countries (tropical Africa region).

What should these countries do?

There should be commitment by all individual Range States to the conservation of the Black-winged Pratincole and its habitats. Each of these countries should develop its own National Action Plan. These Action Plans should describe management activities on the basis of the management options presented in this International Action Plan.

How should the Action Plan be implemented?

A working group under the AEWA Technical Committee should be established to implement Single Species Action Plans. Activities mandated to the working group are listed in this International Action Plan. The plan was formally adopted at the Second Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA, which took place from 26-29 September 2002 in Bonn, Germany and at the 23rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, which was held from 1-4 December 2003 in Strasbourg, France. The plan should be reviewed every three years thereafter. In case of emergency situations in the population of the Black-winged Pratincole, an update of the Action Plan should be made immediately.

1. Introduction

The dramatic situation within the population of the Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*, which became obvious in the end of the 20th century, demands immediate actions aimed at more effective conservation of this species. It was included in Category 3 of the list of Species of European Conservation Concern (SPEC 3), since it was considered that less than 10,000 pairs breed in Europe (Tucker & Heath 1994). The rapid population decline observed in southern Russia in the 1990s led here to at least a 10-fold decrease of the species numbers. Pronounced number fluctuations have also been observed in recent years in the eastern (Asian) part of the species' breeding range. Currently, the total population of the Black-winged Pratincole is unlikely to exceed 10,000-15,000 pairs.

Development and implementation of the International Action Plan are urgently needed to conserve and restore the Black-winged Pratincole populations; this Action Plan will allow the involvement of all Range States, both at governmental and non-governmental levels, in the conservation activities. Only through development of international co-operation for conservation of the Black-winged Pratincole can these actions to remove threats to the species be successful. International co-operation is needed for implementation of all the items in this Action Plan. This co-operation will guarantee effectiveness and positive output from the Action Plan.

Table 1

Breeding numbers of the Black-winged Pratincole in European Russia prior to the latest population decline

Region	**Number of pairs**	**Source of information**
Krasnodarsky Krai	30-50	Lokhman 2000
Stavropolsky Krai	300-500	A.N.Khokhlov *pers.comm.*
Rostov-on-Don region	1,000-3,000	Belik 1998
Kalmykia	3,000-4,000	A.I.Kukish *pers.comm.*, Belik *et al.* 1991
Daghestan	500-1,000	Belik 1998
Volgograd region	100-150	V.F.Chernobai *pers.comm.*, Belik 1998
Saratov region	2,000-3,000	V.N.Moseikin *pers.comm.*
TOTAL	7,030-11,700	

Table 2

Current breeding numbers of the Black-winged Pratincole in Russia

Region	**Number of pairs**	**Source of information**
Krasnodarsky Krai	30-50	Lokhman 2000
Stavropolsky Krai	100-200	Expert assumption
Rostov-on-Don region	100-300	Expert assumption
Kalmykia	300-500	Expert assumption
Daghestan	300	Dzhamirzoev *et al.* 2000
Volgograd region	200-300	Chernobai *et al.* 2000
Saratov region	430-500	Piskunov & Belyachenko 1998
Orenburg region	1,000-2,500	Gavlyuk 1998, L.V.Korshikov *pers.comm.*
West Siberia	250	Expert assumption
TOTAL	2,700-4,900	

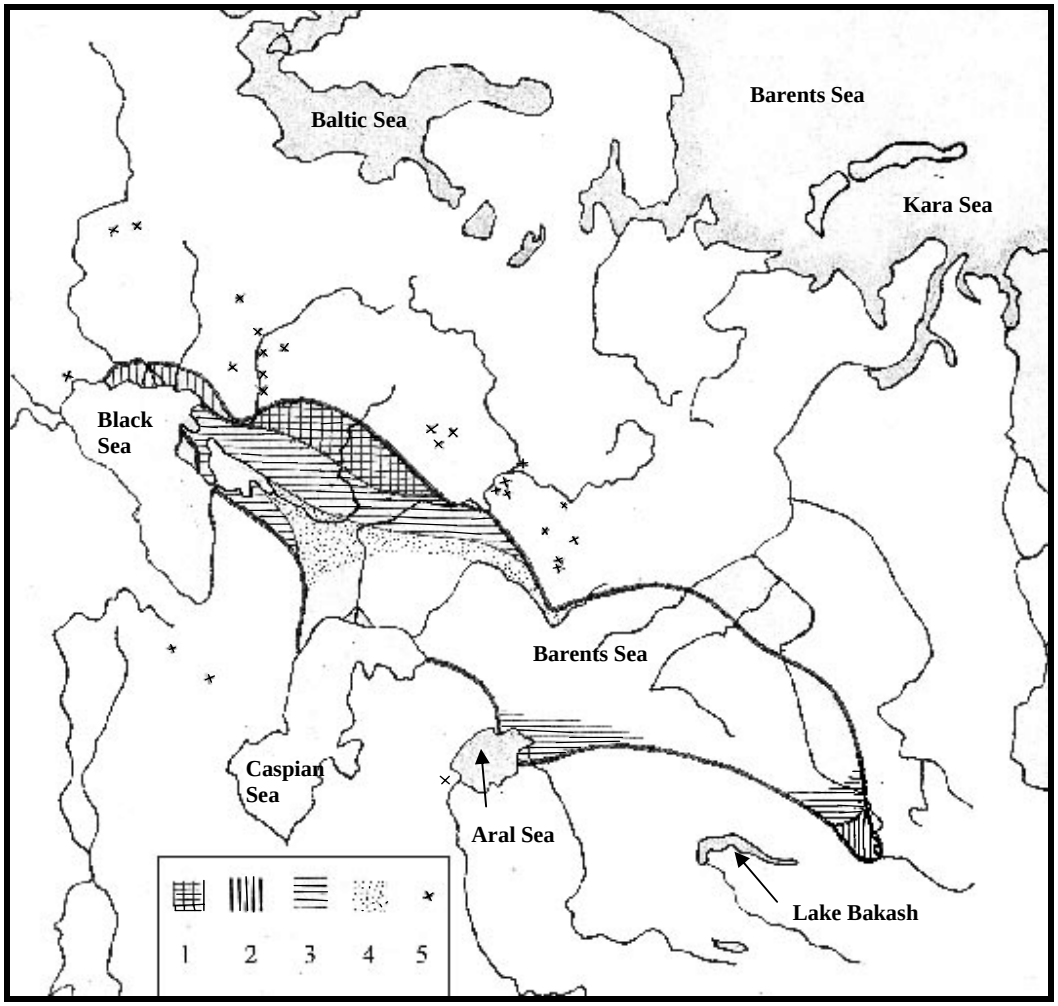


Figure 1. Breeding range of the Black-winged Pratincole

1 – part of the range where the species became extinct in the 19th century; 2 – part of the range where the species became extinct in the first half of the 20th century; 3 – part of the range where the species became extinct in the 1970-1980s; 4 – part of the range where the species became extinct in the 1990s; 5 – sites of sporadic breeding in dry years outside the current breeding range of the species.

Table 3

Current numbers of the Black-winged Pratincole population (pairs)

Countries	Europe	Asia	Total	Source of information
Hungary	0-2		0-2	Tucker & Heath 1994, Hagemeijer & Blair 1997
Belarus	0-5		0-5	BirdLife International/EBCC 2002
Rumania	0-10		0-10	BirdLife International/EBCC 2002
Ukraine	5-15		5-15	Garmash 1998
Bulgaria	0-10		0-10	Hagemeijer & Blair 1997, Nankinov 2002
Turkey		0-3	0-3	G. Kirwan *pers.comm.*
Armenia		8-10	8-10	BirdLife International Database 2002
Azerbaijan		?	?	E. Sultanov *pers.comm.*
Uzbekistan		1-5	1-5	E. Kreuzberg-Mukhina *estimate*
Kazakhstan	500-1000	6,500-9,000	7,000-10,000	V. Khrokov *estimate*
Russia	1,400-2,200	1,300-2,700	2,700-4,900	Data from the Workshop on the BwP
TOTAL	1,900-3,200	7,800-11,700	9,700-14,900	

Comment: most of the birds in the Orenburg region inhabit the areas that are geographically in the Asian part, thus the whole of this regional population is considered as "Asian". Breeding in European countries largely happens as result of invasions to the north and to the west that occur in dry years.

The *overall objectives* of the Action Plan are:

- In the short-term (***3 years***)

1. To define the main factors affecting the population of the Black-winged Pratincole in the breeding, staging and wintering areas and to undertake actions to reduce their negative impact.
2. To optimise relationships between man and birds in agricultural habitats used by the Black-winged Pratincole.
3. To ensure that all appropriate actions defined in this Action Plan are undertaken in order to stop further decline of the Black-winged Pratincole throughout its breeding range.

- In the long-term (***20 years***)

1. To protect the Black-winged Pratincole from extinction.
2. To ensure stability of the Black-winged Pratincole population within its breeding and wintering range.

- To reach successfully these short-term and long-term objectives the following *measures* have *to be undertaken*: International co-operation between individual experts, governmental and non-governmental bodies of all species range states must be ensured to guarantee the development and implementation of joint monitoring and research of the Black-winged Pratincole, habitat management, optimisation of land-use in breeding areas of this species, and other relevant activities provided by the Action Plan for the benefit of the Black-winged Pratincole.

- Adequate scientific approaches to the conservation of the Black-winged Pratincole and to the use of its habitats must be guaranteed. These approaches should be based on sound research of the species' ecology, population dynamics, and on the dynamics of ecosystems vitally important for the survival of the species. In addition, agricultural practices and habitat management activities must be compatible and take into account the needs of all stakeholders, as well as conservation needs.

- Adequate legislation for conservation of the Black-winged Pratincole should be in place and must be implemented/enforced by all Range States.

- New mechanisms of international co-operation should be developed, including subsidies possibly required for habitat management in areas occupied by the Black-winged Pratincole to ensure that no detrimental human activities take place in the areas of breeding, migration staging or wintering of this species.

The Action Plan presents operational and measurable objectives, and management options to achieve these objectives. It is a framework to ensure the coherence of and communication about the National Action Plans. The framework leaves room for manoeuvre for the Range States to tune their management policy to the national situation, as long as the objectives are achieved.

The *success* of the Action Plan to large extent *depends on*:
1. the support for its implementation;
2. the efforts of the Range States to draw up and implement National Action Plans;
3. adherence to the time frame for monitoring and evaluation;
4. communication of information on progress and activities in the Range States;
5. organisational matters such as: a clear vision on the role of the AEWA Technical Committee and a decision on the potential establishment of a new working group within this committee.

The Action Plan applies for a period of three years, after which it should be evaluated and reviewed. In case of emergency situations in the population of the Black-winged Pratincole, a review of the Action Plan should be undertaken immediately. A Working Group on the Black-winged Pratincole and other threatened steppe waders should be established and operate under the AEWA Secretariat (or leading role delegated to one of the bodies of the Black-winged Pratincole range states).

2. Biological Assessment

General information	The Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* is a small Palearctic wader, one of the representatives of the specific *Glareolidae* wader family. It breeds in the steppe and desert belt of Eurasia, and winters in tropical Africa region. The Black-winged Pratincole prefers to breed on dry salted soils ("solonets" and "solontchak") with low vegetation cover and patches of bare ground, and on overgrazed steppe pastures. It avoids steppes with high vegetation. Sometimes inhabits arable land (ploughed fields). Often feeds in the air, catching flying insects.
Population development	• Population decline, which has been observed since the end of the 19th century, probably is caused by the extensive ploughing of virgin steppes for development of arable agriculture. • Extremely rapid decline was recorded in the middle of the 20th century; it was more dramatic in the western and northern parts of the species breeding range. • In the second half of the 20th century numbers of the Black-winged Pratincole became locally stable or even increased, which was presumably related to the irrigation of steppes. • In the 1990s population again started to decline sharply; this is most marked in the south of Russia.
Distribution throughout the annual cycle	• Breeding range of the species stretches throughout the steppe zone of Eurasia from Romania and Ukraine in the west to the Russian Altai and Kazakhstan in the east. Irregularly the species is recorded during breeding further north, in the forest-steppe zone. In the north of the desert zone locally it forms large colonies in the valleys and in the river deltas. • Winters in savannahs of southern and south-western Africa. • Transit migrations through countries in the Middle East and the Arabic Peninsula are almost inconspicuous; however migration is observed in Africa close to the equator.
Productivity	Very low. From 60% to 100% of clutches and chicks die annually because of: • Trampling of nests and chicks by grazing cattle. • Increased predator pressure, namely by corvids. • Predation by terrestrial mammals, which varies from year to year depending on availability of other food sources. • Heavy rains and hailstorms. • Severe droughts.

Life history	**Breeding:** Breeds in steppe and desert belts of Eurasia, mainly in Russia and in Kazakhstan, in the vicinity of watering places. Negatively affected in summer by pronounced weather changes such as severe rains, hailstorms and droughts. Clutch size of 3-4 eggs. Mortality (clutches and chicks) may reach 60-100% annually.	**Feeding:** Insectivorous bird, feeding on beetles, ants, grasshoppers, locusts, etc. In spring often feeds close to colonies on patches of bare ground. In summer catches insects in the air, flying low over ground or water. At the end of summer usually feeds in flocks high in the air, catching abundant insects. In wintering areas feeds on locusts and other flying insects. During the day makes regular flights to water bodies for watering.	**Migration:** Wintering areas located in southern and south-western Africa. Areas/sites of regular stopovers where large numbers can be observed are unknown.

Habitat requirements	**Breeding habitat:** Pastures in steppes with low vegetation and salted soils ("solontchaks" and "solonets"), usually close to water bodies, which are used as watering places for cattle. Locally breeds in ploughed fields; there regular cultivation takes place in summer. Avoids places with high vegetation cover, therefore lower grazing pressures leading to restoration of vegetation cover are unfavourable for the species. Similar unfavourable consequences are observed with increased climate humidity, leading also to development of higher and denser vegetation.	**Winter habitat:** Grassland savannahs with high population densities of insects: locusts, ants, and beetles, which become abundant during their mass dispersal season.	**Habitat on passage:** Specific features unknown. Presumably high-altitude migration takes place.

The geographical scope of the Black-winged Pratincole

Countries of Breeding	Countries of Migration	Countries of Wintering
Armenia	Bahrain	Angola
Azerbaijan	Chad	**Botswana**
Belarus	Cyprus	Burundi
Bulgaria	Egypt	Congo, The Democratic Republic of
France	Eritrea	Côte d'Ivoire
Germany	Ethiopia	Gabon
Hungary	Iran	Ghana
Kazakhstan	Iraq	Kenya
Moldova	Israel	Mali
Romania	Jordan	Mauritania
Russia	Lebanon	**Namibia**
Syria	Nigeria	Rwanda
Turkey	Oman	Sâo Tomé e Principe
Ukraine	Qatar	**South Africa**
Uzbekistan	Saudi Arabia	Tanzania
	Seychelles	Togo
	Somalia	Uganda
	Sudan	Zambia
	Syria	
	Turkey	
	United Arab Emirates	
	Yemen	

Comment: highlighted (bold & underline) are the countries holding the most breeding or wintering birds. Vagrant Black-winged Pratincoles have been recorded in 21 European countries up to Spain, Ireland and Iceland, which is probably related to peculiarities of migration in this species: it is supposed that migrating birds use fast-moving air currents in the upper layers of the atmosphere.

Knowledge on the Black-winged Pratincole in its breeding range

This assessment of knowledge on the Black-winged Pratincole was made during the Moscow workshop to define the priority areas for targeted research and monitoring needed to reach the objectives of this Action Plan. Preliminary information for each country is suggested on the basis of available literature.

0 – no data; 1 – very little data; 2 – expert assumption; 3 – good quantitative data

Country	Population Size	Distribution	Timing/ presence	Habitat use	Key negative factors
Azerbaijan	1	1	1	1	0
Belarus	1	1	2	1	1
Bulgaria	2	2	2	2	1
Hungary	2	2	2	2	1
Kazakhstan	1	1	2	2	2
Romania	2	2	2	2	1
Russia	1	2	3	3	3
Ukraine	2	2	2	2	2

3. Human Activities

This chapter gives an overview of human activities potentially affecting the Black-winged Pratincole population and their relevance by country.

Overview of human activities/threats related to the Black-winged Pratincole

Human activities potentially affecting the Black-winged Pratincole population can be subdivided into three categories:

1. Human activities/threats potentially affecting the Black-winged Pratincole population.
2. Human activities/threats affecting the quantity of the habitat, which might change the total size of areas suitable for breeding.
3. Human activities/threats affecting the quality of the habitat, such as deterioration and contamination.

Relationships between man and the Black-winged Pratincole are very complex, as one and the same type of human activities can be simultaneously negative and beneficial. For example, it is considered absolutely essential that grazing must take place in the Black-winged Pratincole's habitats, thus conservation of the species can hardly be achieved through such measures as establishment of strictly protected natural areas (zapovedniks in the CIS countries). At the same time, overgrazing which maintains the habitat quality leads to dramatically low productivity (through clutch and chick mortality caused by trampling). Another example is the creation of new water bodies in dry steppe and desert areas: this often coincides with habitat destruction, but at the same time provides a water supply for Black-winged Pratincoles, thus making the area more suitable. Also human activities result in changes in the numbers of predators, mainly corvids, which cause severe predator pressure on the colonies of ground-nesting Black-winged Pratincoles. All these "pros and cons" have to be considered before planning specific management actions for this species in the whole range, as well as in individual range states (*see chapter 6*).

Human activities potentially affecting the Black-winged Pratincole population in the countries of its breeding range.

0 – no impact, ±1 – low impact, ±2 – average, ±3 – high impact, ±4 – critical negative or positive impact

Factors/Threats	UKR	RUS	KAZ
1.Direct eliminating factors (caused by humans)			
1.1. Hunting	-1	-0,6	0
1.2. Poisoning by pesticides	-1	-1,3	-2
1.3. Destruction of nests by cattle	-4	-2,6	-3
1.4. Destruction of nests by farming machinery	-1	-2,5	0
1.5. Disturbance	-4	-2,0	-2
2. Indirect quantity-limiting factors			
2.1. Ploughing of steppes	-1	+0,5	-0,7
2.2. Artificial afforestation	-1	-0,9	0
2.3. Construction of reservoirs, ponds and other water bodies	+2	+1,9	+1
2.4. Construction of roads	-1	-0,7	-0,7
3. Indirect quality-limiting factors			
3.1. Use of pesticides	-2	-1,5	-2
3.2. Stopped grazing and overgrowing of pastures	+4	-2,5	0
3.3. Spread of fallow lands and overgrowing of arable fields	+2	-0,1	-0,3
3.4. Disappearance of water bodies (reservoirs, ponds, etc.)	0	-1,0	0

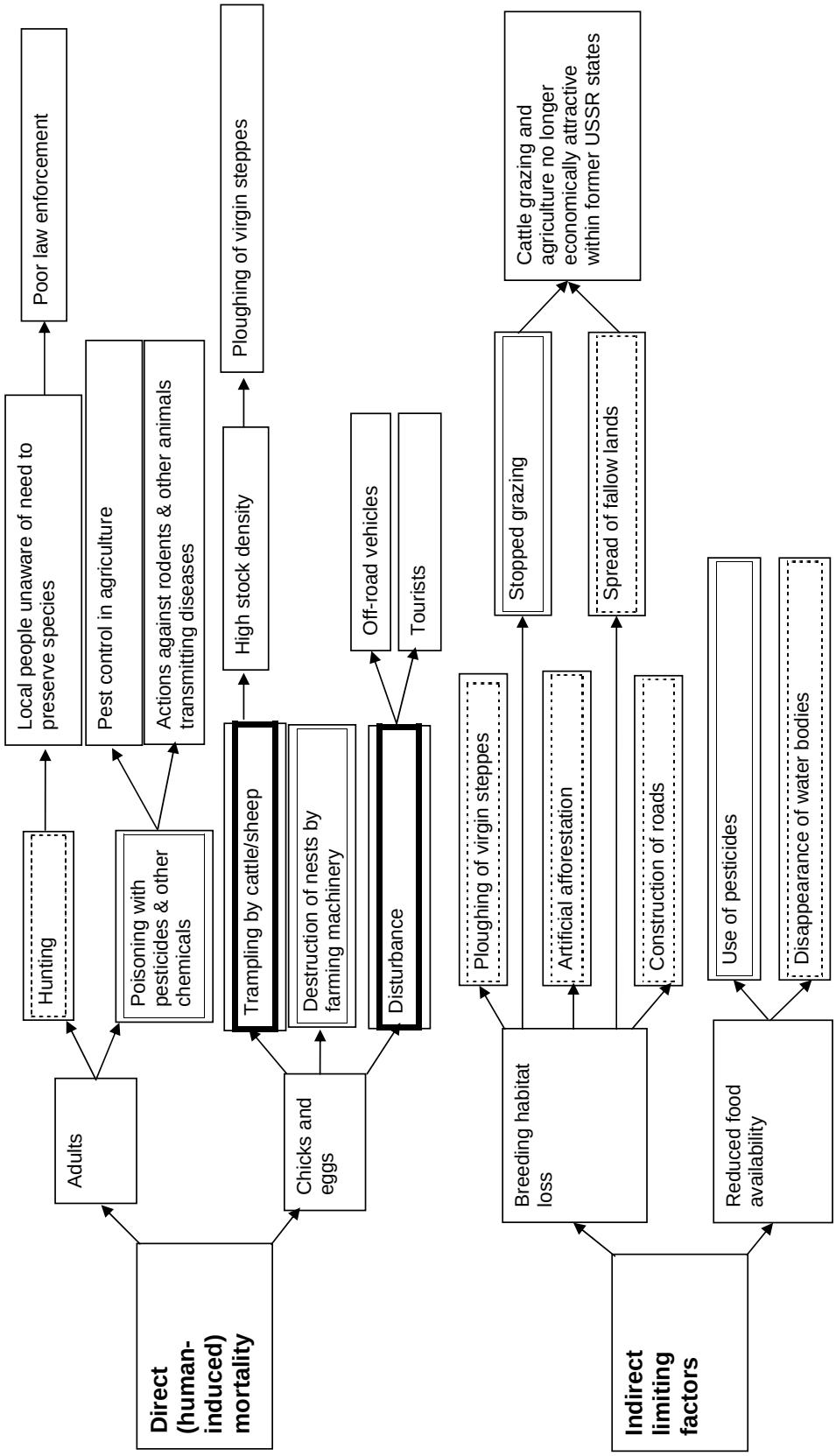
Comment: results of expert evaluation of the importance of different threats are given in Appendix I.

Overview of threats to the Black-winged Pratincole population and their relevance by country all over the species range

Factors/Threats	Countries of breeding	Countries of wintering	Countries of migration
1. Human direct eliminating factors			
1.1. Hunting			
1.2. Poisoning by pesticides			
1.3. Destruction of nests by cattle		-	-
1.4. Destruction of nests by farming machinery		-	-
1.5. Disturbance			
2. Indirect quantity-limiting factors			
2.1. Ploughing of steppes			
2.2. Artificial afforestation			
2.3. Construction of reservoirs, ponds and other water bodies	++++	+++	++
2.4. Construction of roads			
3. Indirect quality-limiting factors			
3.1. Use of pesticides			
3.2. Stopped grazing and overgrowing of pastures			
3.3. Spread of fallow lands and overgrowing of arable fields			
3.4. Disappearance of water bodies (reservoirs, ponds, etc.)			
4. **Natural limiting factors**			
4.1. Change of a climate			
4.2. Meteorological anomalies			
.4.3. Expansion and number increase of preying corvids			
4.4. Influence of ground predators			

High relevance | Limited relevance | Low relevance | ++++ Positive factors

Threats to the Black-winged Pratincole (*solid frame – high impact; normal frame – medium impact; dashed frame – low impact***)**



4. Policies and Legislation

This chapter provides an overview of relevant national and international policies and nature conservation legislation. Legislation regarding transport, agriculture, etc. will not be discussed, although this may have a considerable indirect influence on the Black-winged Pratincole population.

International policies and legislation

Title	Work title	Year	Objective and relevance
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	Ramsar Convention	1971	Stem increasing destruction of wetland habitats by designating wetlands for inclusion on a list of "Wetlands of International Importance". Conservation and wise use of these wetlands. Compensate for loss of wetlands. Consultation about implementation of the Convention.
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	Bonn Convention/ CMS	1979	Concerted action for the conservation and effective management of migratory species. Consists of two appendices: Appendix I of species requiring strict protection and Appendix II of species for which agreements need to be made for their conservation and management. AEWA is an example of such an agreement. The Black-winged Pratincole has been listed in Appendix II of CMS.
Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds	AEWA	1995	The Black-winged Pratincole is one of the 235 species currently included in Annex 2 to the Agreement. Furthermore in Annex 3 (Action Plan) the species has been listed in Table 1, Column A under categories 3b and 3c.
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	Bern Convention	1979	Conservation of wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several states. "Special attention [should] be given to the protection of areas that are of importance for the migratory species specified in Appendices II and III (incl. most birds) and which are appropriately situated in relation to migration routes as wintering, staging, feeding, breeding or moulting areas". The Black-winged Pratincole has been listed in Annex II.
EU Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds	EU Birds Directive	1979	Conservation of birds and bird habitats by European co-operation. Establish network of protected areas: Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The Black-winged Pratincole has been listed in Annex I. The Birds Directive laid the foundation for the Habitats Directive.
EU Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora	EU Habitats Directive	1992	Establish a strategic network (Natura 2000) of European Habitats and protect the most threatened species in Europe. Countries have to submit lists of "Special Areas of Conservation" (SACs). Two annexes list habitat types and species. The Article 6 obligations of the Habitats Directive also have to be implemented in the Special Protection Areas of the Birds Directive.
Convention on Biological Diversity	CBD	1992	Maintain a sustainable diversity and spread of flora and fauna across the world. Each contracting party shall develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
UN Convention to Combat Desertification	UNCCD	1992	Might be of high relevance for the wintering grounds.

NB: The European Directives and international conventions can have different legal implications: the special legal status of EU Directives makes it possible to enforce implementation through the European Court of Justice, whereas the legal implications of conventions depend on their translation into national legislation

Threat and Convention status for the Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*

Global Status[1]	European Status[2]	SPEC category[2]	EU Birds Directive Annex[3]	Bern Convention Annex[4]	Bonn Convention Annex[5]	African-Eurasian Migratory Water Bird Agreement [6]
DD	EN	1	I	II	II	A3b & 3c

[1] BirdLife International (2004). *Threatened Birds of the World 2004.* CD-ROM. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International. Categories: EX = Extinct; EW = Extinct in the Wild; CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered; VU = Vulnerable; LR = Lower Risk, cd = conservation dependent, nt = near threatened, lc = least concern; DD = data deficient, NE = Not Evaluated.
[2] BirdLife International (2004) Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status. Second edition. Wageningen, The Netherlands: BirdLife International. (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 12). EN – endangered, meets IUCN Red List Criteria for EN at European level; SPEC category 1 – European species of global conservation concern, i.e. those classified as Threatened, Near Threatened or Data Deficient under the IUCN Red List Criteria at global level (BirdLife International 2004, IUCN 2004).
[3] The species shall be subjected to special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.
[4] Give special attention to the protection of areas that are of importance (Article 4) and ensure the special protection of the species (Article 6). For more details see the Convention text.
[5] Species for which agreements need to be made for their conservation and management. For more details see the Convention text.
[6] A3b & 3c – population size between about 25,000 and about 100,000, and considered to be at risk as a result of (b) dependence on a habitat type that is under severe threat and (c) showing extreme fluctuations in population size and trend.

National policies, legislation and activities / Countries of breeding range

National policies affecting the Black-winged Pratincole	**AZE**	**TUR**	**BUL**	**ROM**	**HUN**	**BEL**	**UKR**	**RUS**	**KAZ**	**UZB**
Species										
Legal protection status in all areas and periods										
Control of pesticide use										
Research										
Regular population census and monitoring										
Public awareness & education										
Habitats										
Site protection										
Site management										
Monitoring (use) of protected sites										
Predator control measures										
Policies to reduce potential agricultural conflicts										
International co-operation										
International monitoring										
Regular meetings										

High significance Limited significance Not applicable

National policies, legislation and activities (total species range, overview)

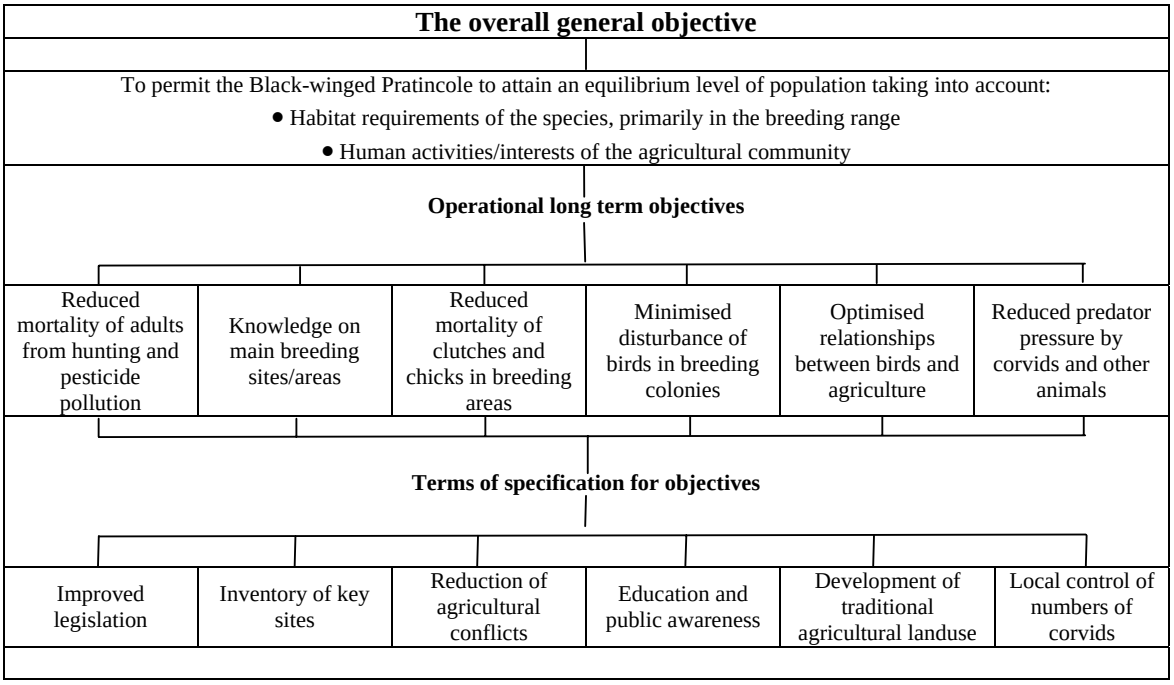
National policies affecting the Black-winged Pratincole	**Countries of breeding**	**Countries of wintering**	**Countries of migration**
Species			
Legal protection status in all areas and periods			
Control of pesticide use			
Research			
Regular population census and monitoring			
Public awareness & education			
Habitats			
Site protection			
Site management			
Monitoring (use) of protected sites			
Predator control measures			
Policies to reduce potential agricultural conflicts			
International co-operation			
International monitoring			
Regular meetings			

High significance Limited significance Not applicable

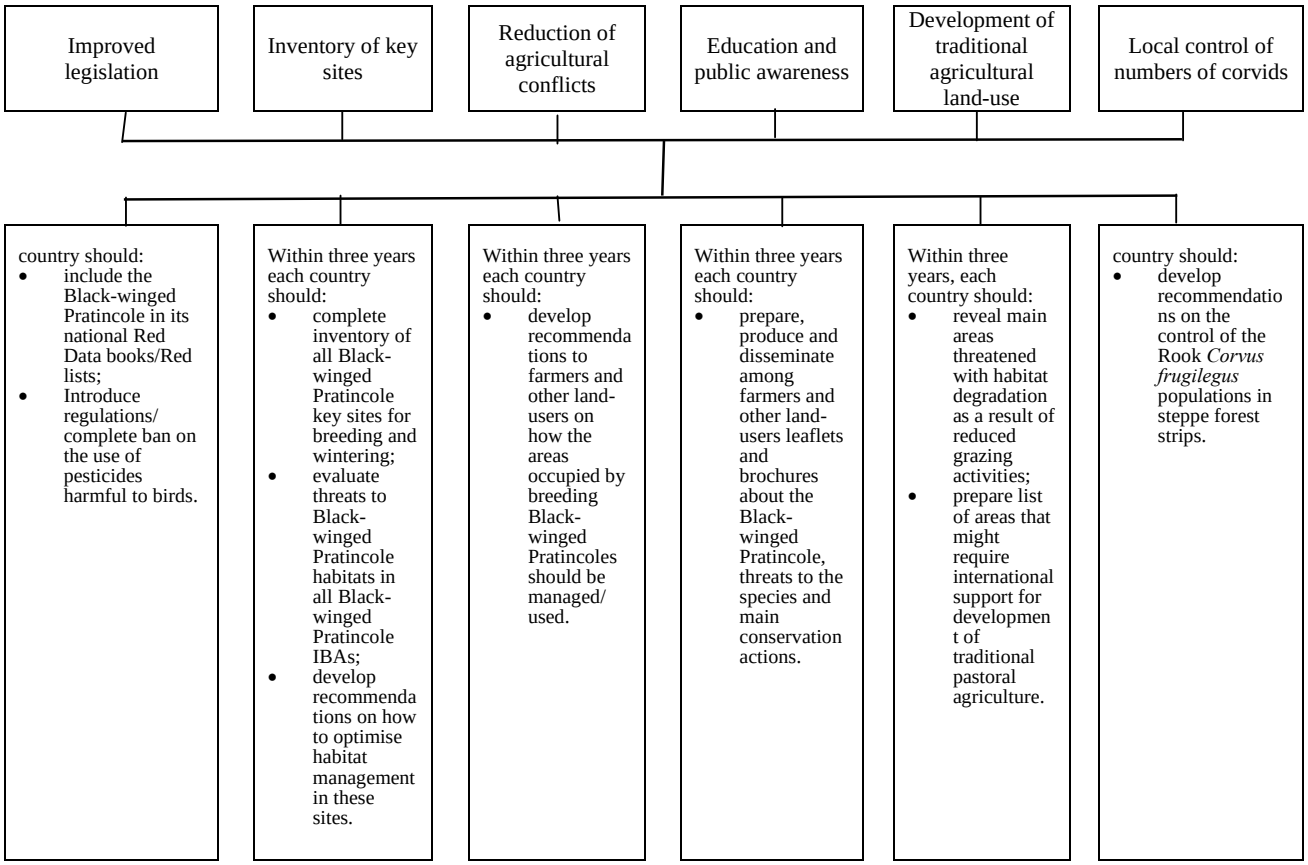
Framework for Action

All countries in the Black-winged Pratincole's breeding and wintering range are responsible for the success of this Action Plan. Without the commitment of the Range States and all interested groups concerned, the Action Plan will remain ineffective. In this chapter the framework of objectives and a list of subjects that need to be taken up in the National Action Plans are presented.

Framework for Action



Measurable Objectives



All National Action Plans should include (all actions need to have a time frame):

- Annual surveys/reviews of geographical distribution, numbers and productivity
- A comprehensive survey of key sites and their protection status
- Survey of/actions to improve existing policies and legislation (*see chapter 4*)
- Survey of threats/human activities (*see chapter 3*)
- Overview of present or expected sites of international importance, and threats to these sites (criterion of international importance: 1% of the total population, ≥30 birds or ≥10 breeding pairs)
- Survey of present or expected threats to sites of national importance
- Proposed management options to deal with threats in internationally and nationally important sites (*see chapters 5 and 6*)
- Studies on food and feeding ecology in areas of breeding, migration and wintering
- To identify pesticides that are toxic (harmful) to birds and are still used locally in agriculture
- Monitoring of population changes, mortality rates, and of changes in food supply related to the use of pesticides
- Identification of all areas important for breeding, migration and wintering
- Identification of key areas for development of environmentally friendly (sustainable) agriculture
- Identification and localisation of "stakeholders" for each key site
- Provisions for maintenance of habitat quality/quantity
- Provisions for habitat restoration, where appropriate
- Elaboration and implementation of monitoring and control systems (*see chapter 7*)
- Identification of financial consequences/responsibilities
- Communication plan (with AEWA, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and Threatened Steppe Waders Working Group if and when established)
- Public awareness and training plan
- Regular publication of all new materials on threatened steppe wader species
- Search for financial resources for implementation of the National Action Plan
- Overall expected effects of measures taken

5. Action by country

To assist the Range States in developing their own National Action Plans, this chapter describes management options and the relation between the national objectives and the international objectives.

Breeding range countries

Priority; H: high, M: medium, L: low

International objective	Priority	National management options/actions	Measurable objective
Reduced mortality of adults from hunting and pesticide pollution	M	• Inclusion in (all) National Red data Books. Complete interdiction of hunting • Legal regulations on pesticide use include Black-winged Pratincole conservation needs • Control and improvements in enforcement of existing nature conservation legislation	✓ Adequate hunting legislation and legislation related to pesticide use in place and enforced
Knowledge on main breeding sites/areas	H	• All available published and unpublished information collated in easy-to-use formats available for decision-making • Countries produce national (or joint) reports on the distribution, conservation status, stakeholders, etc. of all key sites for the Black-winged Pratincole • Each country undertakes extensive surveys to assess numbers, distribution, population trends to have best possible knowledge on these issues • Monitoring of known colonies with the use of ringing and colour-marking, with attention to breeding success and the impact of threats • Monitoring of numbers of rodents and terrestrial predators in relation to the breeding performance of steppe waders	✓ Results of inventory available for decision-makers ✓ All key sites known and monitored
Reduced mortality of clutches and chicks in breeding areas	H	• Actions to reduce clutch and chick mortality clarified and widely advertised to farmers/land-users, first of all in protected areas • Development and implementation of a system to monitor annual breeding success • Applied studies on practical effect of specific actions to protect colonies (clutches and chicks) • Management of grazing in protected areas • Management of land-use in breeding areas	✓ Recommendations to reduce clutch and chick mortality ✓ Data on annual breeding success obtained and made widely available
Minimised disturbance of birds in breeding colonies	H	• Ensure adequate management of all breeding colonies • Establishment of temporary protected sites (for breeding season) in areas with permanent colonies	✓ All known breeding colonies receive adequate protection
Optimised relationships between birds and agriculture	H	▪ Reveal main areas threatened with habitat degradation as a result of reduced grazing activities ▪ Prepare list of areas which might require international support for development of traditional pastoral agriculture ▪ Sustainable and species-friendly management of grazing, land-use and water management methods beneficial for breeding colonies of the Black-winged Pratincole	✓ Overview of needed management actions to optimise relationships between the Black-winged Pratincole and farming activities in the breeding areas available
Reduced predator pressure of corvids and other animals	H	• Local control of predator numbers around breeding colonies, primarily Rooks	✓ Adequate predator numbers around breeding colonies

Development, endorsement and implementation of National Action Plans	H	▪ National Action Plans in place in breeding range countries, and endorsed and implemented at all levels ▪ National legislation amended and enforced as provided in the International and National Action Plans ▪ Support the international IUCN project "Strategy and Action Plan for development of sustainable grazing in the steppes of southern Russia" aimed at developing the framework and conditions for restoration of traditional land-use practices in semi-arid regions of Russia, and ensure that measures for conservation of the Black-winged Pratincole and other steppe waders are considered in this project ▪ Support the emergency measures for conservation of biodiversity in Central Asia, suggested by WWF, aimed at restoration of wild ungulates as critically important	✓ National Action Plans in place ✓ All national bodies committed to implementation
Public awareness and involvement of local stakeholders	H	▪ Produce public awareness materials and distribute them widely ▪ Local stakeholders involved in practical on-ground conservation of breeding colonies	✓ Effective public awareness materials produced and distributed

Wintering range countries

International objective	Priority	National management options/actions	Measurable objective
Reduced mortality of adults from hunting and pesticide pollution	H	• Legal regulations on hunting and pesticide use include Black-winged Pratincole conservation needs	✓ Adequate hunting legislation and legislation related to pesticide use in place and enforced
Knowledge on main wintering sites/areas	H	• All available published and unpublished information collated in easy-to-use formats available for decision-making • Countries produce national (or joint) reports on the distribution, conservation status, stakeholders, etc. of all key sites for the Black-winged Pratincole • Each country undertakes extensive surveys to assess numbers, distribution, population trends to have best possible knowledge on these issues • Mid-winter counts and constant monitoring take place in all areas important for the Black-winged Pratincole • Impact of different threats studied/evaluated	✓ Results of inventory available for decision-makers ✓ All key wintering sites known and monitored
Optimised relationships between birds and agriculture	L	▪ Reveal main threats to wintering habitats of the Black-winged Pratincole ▪ Prepare list of areas which might require international support for development of agricultural practices compatible with conservation needs of the Black-winged Pratincole	✓ Data on habitat use/threats to the Black-winged Pratincole in wintering areas available
Development, endorsement and implementation of National Action Plans	H	▪ National Action Plans in place in all wintering range countries and implemented at all levels ▪ National legislation amended and enforced as provided in the International and National Action Plans	✓ National Action Plans in place ✓ All national bodies committed to implementation
Public awareness and involvement of local stakeholders	H	▪ Produce public awareness materials and distribute them widely ▪ Local stakeholders involved in practical on-ground conservation of key wintering sites	✓ Effective public awareness materials produced and distributed

Migration/flyover countries

International objective	Priority	National management options/actions	Measurable objective
Reduced mortality of adults from hunting and pesticide pollution	M	• Legal regulations on hunting and pesticide use include Black-winged Pratincole conservation needs	✓ Adequate hunting legislation and legislation related to pesticide use in place and enforced
Knowledge on possible stopover sites/areas and overall migration patterns	H	• Overall picture of the Black-winged Pratincole migration patterns prepared, assessed, made available to wider audience • All available published and unpublished information collated in easy-to-use formats available for decision-making • Countries produce national (or joint) reports on the distribution, conservation status, stakeholders, etc. of all key sites for the Black-winged Pratincole • Each country undertakes extensive surveys to assess numbers, distribution, population trends to have best possible knowledge on these issues • Assessment of possible threats to the species on migration and stopovers undertaken	✓ Results of migration overview available for decision-makers ✓ All possible important stopover sites known and monitored
Development, endorsement and implementation of National Action Plans	M	▪ National Action Plans in place in relevant migration stopover range countries and implemented at all levels ▪ National legislation amended and enforced as provided in the International and National Action Plans	✓ National Action Plans in place in relevant countries ✓ All national bodies committed to implementation
Public awareness and involvement of local stakeholders	M	▪ Produce public awareness materials and distribute them widely ▪ Local stakeholders involved in practical on-ground conservation of key stopover sites (if/when the latter become known)	✓ Effective public awareness materials produced and distributed

6. Implementation

General preconditions

For the Action Plan to be successfully implemented, agreement on information exchange, communication and monitoring, clarity on necessary financial resources and a realistic time-schedule are prerequisites. It is most important that individual countries only consider measures that might affect the population after consultation with the other countries involved. The AEWA Technical Committee should play a mediating role.

A special working group under the Technical Committee should be established to co-ordinate the implementation of the Black-winged Pratincole Action Plan. In this working group all Black-winged Pratincole Range States and interested groups should be represented. The Range States have a responsibility in monitoring national achievements, and communicating these to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat with the request to disseminate this information to the AEWA Threatened Steppe Waders Working Group (when established) and other Range States. The population model will be a very important instrument in relation to this monitoring. This chapter will describe these essential preconditions for the implementation of the international Action Plan.

Monitoring

The success of this Action Plan stands or falls with the commitment of countries to monitor the population and habitats, as well as the effects of management measures on the species. Only if countries demonstrate this commitment can proper management decisions be made. All countries are requested to continue and/or initiate a regular population census and monitoring of the population (including productivity/age ratio censuses) and their habitats, with special attention to monitoring of known regular breeding, stopover and wintering sites. Collected data will be assembled within the BirdLife International World Bird Database and/or Wetlands International IWC (International Waterbird Census). The Threatened Steppe Waders Working Group under the AEWA Technical Committee will be vital in organising this overall monitoring process.

Organisation

In the organisation structure of the AEWA, the Agreement Secretariat plays a key role. The Agreement Secretariat co-ordinates the flow of scientific information and technical advice. It also calls meetings of the AEWA parties. The Technical Committee was established in accordance with the Agreement text and is a subsidiary body to the Meeting of the Parties. Article VII, paragraph 5 of the AEWA permits the Technical Committee to establish working groups for special purposes. This article can be used for the establishment of a Threatened Steppe Waders Working Group.

Threatened Steppe Waders working group

The establishment of a special Threatened Steppe Waders Working Group under the AEWA Technical Committee is suggested for implementation of this Action Plan.
The working group shall, under the supervision of the Technical Committee and taking into account the role of the Agreement Secretariat, be mandated to undertake the following activities:

- Co-ordinate and facilitate information exchange between Range States (and between AEWA and the Range States)
- Collect country data and draft annual reports on the implementation of the Action Plan
- Assist in and co-ordinate the process of National Action Plan preparation
- Prepare and submit a review of the Action Plan to the triennial Range States meeting and to AEWA
- Monitor implementation of the Action Plan
- Organise intermediate meetings with groups of Range States (training, emergency measures, etc.)

The working group will call for an emergency meeting with the Range States if:

- Total population size has declined by more than one third in any period of four or fewer than four consecutive years or
- Major changes in relevant habitats, or sudden catastrophes occur within the range of the Black-winged Pratincole liable to affect the population further.

An estimated 12,000 US Dollars minimum is needed annually for the Threatened Steppe Waders Working Group to perform its tasks (1 principal co-ordinator part-time, plus communication and printing costs, and basic inventory logistics).
The Threatened Steppe Waders Working Group should consist of a team of several technical advisors. To ensure effective communication between the Technical Committee and the working group, at least one member of the Technical Committee should also participate in the working group.
Detailed Terms of Reference based on the above description of activities will be prepared by the Technical Committee and endorsed by the Range States before the Threatened Steppe Waders Working Group commences its work.

The additional value of the Threatened Steppe Waders Working Group is related to the fact that several breeding range states are not yet Contracting Parties to AEWA, which might cause some misunderstandings if communication and co-ordination of activities goes directly from the AEWA Secretariat. For this reason communication through the Threatened Steppe Waders Working Group is considered more appropriate.

Country actions

In all communication between the Range States (contracting and non-contracting parties) to AEWA, the Agreement Secretariat plays a co-ordinating role. To ensure effective communication, countries should provide information to the Agreement Secretariat. This is intended to ensure that all parties receive all relevant information. In order to implement the Action Plan, the Range States should commit themselves at least to the following points:

- Endorse this Action Plan
- Prepare, in co-operation with the working group, and based on chapters 5 and 6 of this International Action Plan, a National Action Plan by the end of the first year
- Implement this National Action Plan
- Endorse the Terms of Reference of the working group
- Through the Agreement Secretariat, inform the working group about relevant issues in the country
- Appoint focal points responsible for the communication with the working group and relevant stakeholders in the country
- Prepare an annual progress report.
- Prepare a review of the National Action Plans every three to five years
- Maintain and further develop adequately funded monitoring programmes to deliver key data

Time frame for monitoring, evaluation and communication

Time path	**1st year** ↓	**2nd year** ↓	**3rd year** ↓	**4th year** ↓
Actions	**AEWA Technical Committee:** • Prepare Terms of Reference for working group • Prepare International Single Species Action Plan	**Working group:** • Assist and co-ordinate National Action Plans • Monitor implementation of the (national and international) Action Plans and prepare annual progress report • Facilitate information exchange • Organise meetings/training	**Working group:** • Monitor implementation of the (national and international) Action Plans and prepare annual progress report • Facilitate information exchange • Organise meetings/training	**Working group:** • Prepare triennial Range States meeting • Prepare Action Plan review • Monitor implementation of the (national and international) Action Plan and • Prepare annual progress report • Facilitate information exchange • Organise meetings/training
	Range States: • Endorse the International Action Plan • Endorse ToR for the working group	**Range States:** • Prepare National Action Plan • Implement National Action Plan • Prepare annual progress report • Appoint national focal point • Exchange information	**Range States:** • Implement National Action Plan • Prepare annual progress report • Exchange information	**Range States:** • Implement National Action Plan • Prepare annual progress report • Exchange information
	⇓	⇓	⇓	⇓
Products	• Endorsed International Action Plan • Endorsed working group	• National Action Plans • Annual progress report of Range States • Annual progress report on the International Action Plan • National Focal Points • Meetings/training • Information exchange	• Annual progress report of Range States • Annual progress report on the International Action Plan • Meetings/training • Information exchange	• Triennial Range States meeting • Reviewed Action Plan • Three-year report of Range States • Three year report on the International Action Plan • Annual progress report of Range States • Annual progress report on the International Action Plan • Information exchange

Glossary

In this Action Plan the following definitions have been used:

Equilibrium population level - stable level of animal population size, in which birth rate and death rate are equal

Habitat - environment meeting the conditions required by a particular species

Natural Habitat - environment of a particular species, which has not been changed by human interference in recent history, i.e. virgin steppes and semi-deserts

Man-made habitat - man-made environment of a particular species, i.e. farmland

Range States - (independent) countries within the range in which a particular animal species occurs

Flyover countries - those Range states where bird species only pass by on migration without actually staging for at least several days

Wintering grounds - staging grounds during the winter

Key sites - areas which are essential for the survival of a significant part of the population (in line with Ramsar criteria) at any stage of its annual cycle, i.e. for this migratory bird species: breeding grounds, staging areas and wintering sites.

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Appendix I: Evaluation of threat significance by different experts

0 – no threat; 1 – low impact; 2 – medium impact; 3 – high impact; 4 – critical negative impact; + - positive effect of this factor

Factors / Threats	G. Molodan, Ukraine	Kazakhstan			AVERAGE for Kazakhstan	Russia											AVERAGE for Russia
		E. Bragin	G. Eichorn	V. Khrokov		V. Belik	S. Bukreev	A. Davygora	V. Zubakin	M. Korol'kov	L. Korshikov	V. Morozov	V. Moseikin	V. Chernobai	A. Shubin	E. Lebedeva	
1.Human direct eliminating factors																	
1.1. Hunting	-1	0	0	0	**0**	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	-1	-1	**-0,6**
1.2. Poisoning by pesticides	-1	0	-3	-3	**-2**	-1	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	**-1,3**
1.3. Destruction of nests by cattle	-4	-3	-3	-3	**-3**	-4	-3	-3	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-3	-2	-3	**-2,6**
1.4. Destruction of nests by farming machinery	-1	0	0	0	**0**	-2	-3	-3	-1	-2	-2	-4	-4	-3	-1	-3	**-2,5**
1.5. Disturbance	-4	-2	-2	-2	**-2**	-3	-3	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1	-1	-3	0	-3	**-2,0**
2. Indirect quantity-limiting factors																	
2.1. Ploughing of steppes	-1	0	-2	0	**-0,7**	-1	0	+3	0	-1	0	0	+3	0	+1	0	**+0,5**
2.2. Artificial afforestation	-1	0	0	0	**0**	-2	-2	0	-2	0	0	-1	0	-2	0	-1	**-0,9**
2.3. Construction of reservoirs, ponds and other water bodies	+2	+2	0	+1	**+1**	+2	+2	+1	+1	+3	+1	+2	+4	+2	+2	+1	**+1,9**
2.4. Construction of roads	-1	0	-1	-1	**-0,7**	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-3	-1	-1	-1	**-0,7**

3. Indirect quality-limiting factors																		
3.1. Use of pesticides	-2	0	-3	-3	**-2**	-1	-2	-2	-1	-2	-1	-2	0	-1	-2	-2	**-1,5**
3.2. Stopped grazing and overgrowing of pastures	+4	0	-2	+2	**0**	-3	-2	-3	-2	-3	-2	-3	-2	-2	-2	-3	**-2,5**
3.3. Spreading of fallow lands, overgrowing of arable fields	+2	+1	0	-2	**-0,3**	-2	+1	+1	+1	-3	0	0	+2	-2	+2	-1	**-0,1**
3.4. Disappearance of water bodies (reservoirs, ponds etc.)	0	0	0	0	**0**	-2	-2	-3	0	-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	**-1,0**
4. Natural limiting factors																		
4.1. Change of a climate	-1	0	0	0	**0**	-3	0	0	-2	0	0	-2	-2	-2	0	-1	**-0,9**
4.2. Meteorological anomalies	-3	-1	-1	0	**-0,7**	-2	-2	-2	-1	0	-1	-1	0	-3	-1	-1	**-1,3**
4.3. Expansion and number increase of preying corvids	-2	-1	-2	-3	**-2**	-3	-2	-2	-2	-3	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-2	**-1,9**
4.4. Influence of ground predators	-4	-2	0	-2	**-1,3**	-1	-3	-2	-1	-3	0	-1	-2	-2	-1	-3	**-1,7**
4.5. Hybridisation and assimilation by the Collared Pratincole	-2	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**

Appendix II: Overview of key sites per country

Country	International name	Area (ha)	Co-ordinates		Min	Max	Units	Season	Year
Russia	Mouth of the Yeya river	9,600	46°67'N	38°75'E	11	11	breeding pairs	breeding	1996
Russia	Salt lakes in the Primorsko-Akhtarsk area	40,000	46°00'N	38°17'E	10	20	breeding pairs	breeding	1989
Russia	Beglitskaya sand-spit	1,414	47°10'N	38°57'E	50	80	adults and juveniles	passage	1997
Russia	Delta of the Don River	53,800	47°17'N	39°42'E	200	500	adults and juveniles	passage	1997
Russia	Islands in the west part of Lake Manych-Gudilo	19,200	46°50'N	42°55'E	50 2	100 3	ad and juv breed pairs	non-breed breeding	1997 2001
Russia	Dadynskiye lake	45,000	45°27'N	45°07'E	80	300 150	breeding pairs	breeding	1996 1998
Russia	Salt Lake	3,000	45°24'N	44°38'E	20	20	breeding pairs	breeding	1998
Russia	Alagirskoye and Kurtatinskoye gorges	155,000	43°00'N	43°40'E	380 0	380 0	adults and juveniles	passage	1998 2000
Russia	Novokvasnikovski liman	300	50°53'N	46°50'E	5	20 5	breeding pairs	breeding	1995 2000
Russia	Shalkaro-Zhetykolski lake system	81,250	50°92'N	60°83'E	100	150	breeding pairs	breeding	1996
Russia	Valley of Safarovka river	2,500	51°00'N	48°75'E	30	40	breeding pairs	breeding	1997
Russia	Varfolomeyevskiye saltmarshes	2,800	50°00'N	48°20'E	46	60 19	breeding pairs	breeding	1997 2000
Russia	Borisoglebovka (Semenovski Zakaznik)	35,000	51°00'N	46°75'E	30	50	breeding pairs	breeding	1996
Russia	Irendyk ridge	150,000	53°33'N	58°50'E	0	12	breeding pairs	breeding	1996
Russia	Steppes near Kanavka village	6,400	50°18'N	48°40'E	13	16	breeding pairs	breeding	1998
Russia	The Bolshoy Liman	40,000	48°45'N	45°00'E	300	300 5	breeding pairs	breeding	1972 1999
Russia	Bulukhta	62,500	49°20'N	46°10'E	250	250 23	breeding pairs	breeding	1998 2000
Russia	Stepnovsky Ugol saltmarshes	40,000	50°00'N	45°45'E	28	28	breeding pairs	breeding	1998
Russia	The Sarpinskaya (Sarpa) lake-system	450,000	47°30'N	45°15'E	70	100 50	breeding pairs	breeding	1999 2000
Russia	The Sostinskiye (Sosta) lakes	15,000	45°17'N	45°47'E	25	25	breeding pairs	breeding	1998
Russia	The Aike Lake	10,000	50°59'N	61°35'E	40	100	breeding pairs	breeding	1998
Russia	Nature Reserve "Orenburgsky"	21,653	51°15'N	57°20'E	10	20	breeding pairs	breeding	1999
Russia	Gatin Lake	600	46°50'N	45°03'E	30	30	adults and juveniles	unknown	1999
Russia	Kapitan saltmarshes	600	46°20'N	45°10'E	120	120	adults and juveniles	passage	1999
Russia	Zhuravlinaya	71,000	45°57'N	44°04'E	2,700	2,700	adults and juveniles	breeding	1999
Russia	Chonta	68,000	46°44'N	44°57'E	270	270	adults and juveniles	breeding	1999
Russia	Kurnikov saltmarshes	1,600	46°25'N	43°12'E	400	400	adults and juveniles	passage	1999
Russia	Kazachka fish-pond	4,000	47°45'N	39°50'E	350	350	adults and juveniles	passage	1999
Russia	Novotroitskoye reservoir	4,000	45°18'N	41°32'E	100	100	adults and juveniles	passage	1999
Russia	Bird's Lake	5,000	45°35'N	41°45'E	100	100	adults and juveniles	passage	1999
Russia	Lower of the Kuma River	6,000	45°00'N	45°30'E	300	300	adults and juveniles	unknown	1999
Russia	Kisloye Lake	80	54°30'N	62°55'E	22	22	breeding pairs	breeding	1998
Russia	Katay Lake	750	55°15'N	62°03'E	21	21	breeding pairs	breeding	1998

Russia	Lisiy saltmarshes	3,500	45°50'N	44°03'E	1,000	1,000	adults and juveniles	passage	1999
Ukraine	Askania-Nova Biosphere Reserve	33,307	46°45'N	33°87'E	0	0	unset	unknown	1995
Romania	Danube Delta and Razelm-Sinoe complex	442,000	44°93'N	29°20'E	10	0	adults and juveniles	unknown	1996
Armenia	Armash fish-farm	2,795	39°75'N	44°77'E	8	10	breeding pairs	breeding	
Turkey	Bulanik plain	8,000	39°17'N	42°23'E	1,000	1,000	adults and juveniles	passage	1989
Ethiopia	Baro river		8°33'N	33°62'E	500		adults and juveniles	winter	1970
South Africa	Amersfoort-Bethal-Carolina District	120,000	26°53'S	29°83'E	100	1,000	adults and juveniles	winter	
South Africa	Chrissie Pans	62,500	26°32'S	30°25'E	5,000	5,000	adults and juveniles	winter	
South Africa	Grassland Biosphere Reserve (proposed)	1,050,000	27°25'S	30°02'E	1,000	5,000	adults and juveniles	winter	
South Africa	Nyl River Flood-plain	16,000	24°65'S	28°70'E	180	500	adults and juveniles	winter	
Botswana	Lake Ngami	25,000	20°50'S	22°62'E	10,000	10,000	adults and juveniles	winter	1989
Botswana	Linyanti Swamp/Chobe River	20,000	18°05'S	24°38'E	100	300	adults and juveniles	winter	
Botswana	Makgadikgadi Pans	1,200,000	20°75'S	25°50'E	5,000	5,000	adults and juveniles	winter	
Botswana	Okavango Delta	1,900,000	19°42'S	22°75'E	2,000	2,000	adults and juveniles	winter	
Namibia	Bushmanland (Tsumkwe) Pan System	120,000	19°62'S	20°62'E			unset	winter	
Namibia	Eastern Caprivi Wetlands	468,000	18°83'S	23°75'E	500	1,000	adults and juveniles	winter	
Namibia	Etosha National Park	2,291,200	18°98'S	15°75'E	200	300	adults and juveniles	winter	
Namibia	Mahango Game Reserve and Kavango River	24,462	18°30'S	20°62'E	200	300	adults and juveniles	winter	
Tanzania	Serengeti National Park	1,476,300	2°42'S	34°83'E	120	120	adults and juveniles	winter	
Tanzania	Usangu flats	300,000	8°50'S	34°25'E	150	150	adults and juveniles	winter	
Uganda	Kidepo Valley National Park	144,200	3°82'N	33°80'E			unset	winter	
Uganda	Murchison Falls National Park	39,000	2°25'N	31°67'E			unset	winter	
Uganda	Queen Elizabeth National Park and Lake George	223,000	0°17'S	30°00'E			unset	winter	
Zambia	Kafue flats	600,000	15°75'S	27°27'E	100	100	adults and juveniles	non-breeding	
Zambia	Liuwa Plain National Park	366,000	14°53'S	22°62'E	20,000	100,000	adults and juveniles	passage	
Angola	Luando Strict Nature Reserve	828,000	10°68'S	17°37'E			unset	passage	