

TENTH MEETING OF PARTNERS TO THE PARTNERSHIP FOR EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY
Changjiang, P.R. China, 10-14 December 2018



Decision 14

International Single Species Action Plan for The Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*)

Submitted by Wetlands International on behalf of the Seabird Working Group

Summary

This paper seeks endorsement of an International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) under the auspices of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership.

The Plan has been completed with input from Range States, EAAFP Partners, non-government organisations, researchers and relevant individuals.

Pursuant to Paragraph 7 of the Partnership Document, the Seabird Working Group requests the adoption of the Plan and seeks all relevant Range States, Partners and stakeholders to urgently implement the Plan's actions.

Endorsement is also being sought for establishment of a Dalmatian Pelican Task Force to oversee implementation of the Action Plan.

1. The Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) is distributed from East Asia westwards to central Asia and south eastern parts of Europe. The eastern population of the Dalmatian Pelican is restricted to the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. It breeds in western Mongolia and migrates to coastal China for the non-breeding period. The species has been listed as a Species of High Concern in the EAAFP Seabird Species prioritization project presented by the Seabird Working Group at EAAFP MoP7. It is also listed as a key species on the EAAFP website <https://eaaflyway.net/migratory-waterbirds/key-species-of-eaafp/>
2. The Dalmatian Pelican was listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List in 2016. It was downgraded to "Near Threatened" in 2017 due to improvements of its status in Europe where it is listed in Annex I of the European Union Birds Directive. The species was listed on the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Appendix II in 1985 and Appendix I in 1994 and on the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). There are currently no international instruments that address conservation issues across the entire range of the species.

3. Recognising the declining status of the species, development of an International Single Species Action Plan was initiated in 2016 in the framework of a LIFE preparatory project, co-financed by the European Commission Directorate General for the Environment, the AEWA Secretariat, with funds from the Italian Government, project partners and coordinated by BirdLife International.
4. In early 2017, consultation between the EAAFP Partners and the AEWA, CMS and EAAFP Secretariat recognised that given the “Critically Endangered” status of the East Asian population, it was important that the Action Plan be extended to cover all three biogeographic populations of the species (South-eastern Europe, Western Asia and East Asia). It was also agreed that the Action Plan be jointly produced as an AEWA, CMS and Ramsar, EAAFP Action Plan to encourage greater cooperation and sharing of expertise in promoting conservation of the species.
5. During mid-2017, the East Asian flyway population contribution was developed in consultation with EAAFP Partners, wetland managers along the Yellow Sea, researchers and others. This work was coordinated regionally by Taej Mundkur (Wetlands International) and Doug Watkins (Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Wetlands International) and nationally in Mongolia by Nyambayar Batbayar (Wildlife Science and Conservation Centre) and in China by Cao Lei (Research Centre for Eco-environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences), Lu Yong (Wetlands International – China Office), Vivian Fu and Yu Yat Tung, Coordinator of Seabird Working Group (Hong Kong Birdwatching Society / BirdLife International) and Simba Chan (BirdLife Asia).
6. The consultation process indicated that the East Asian population, estimated to be only 70-130 individuals, was undergoing continued decline. In large part, the observed decline in Dalmatian Pelican numbers stems from ongoing loss of intertidal habitat at key migration and non-breeding sites in the Yellow Sea and south China coast. If habitat loss and degradation continues, it is expected that the population could go extinct within the next several decades.
7. The final draft of the Single Species Action Plan was circulated for comment in late 2017. All comments received were considered and the final action plan was amended accordingly. The EAAFP and AEWA Secretariats circulated the final draft Action Plan to China and Mongolia for feedback in a joint letter dated 19 January 2018.
8. A revised version of the Action Plan, which takes into account all comments received to date is included at **Attachment 1** to this document.
9. The Action Plan was adopted by the European Union in May 2018, as the first of the four frameworks adopting the Plan. It is being tabled for adoption by CMS Standing Committee in October 2018 and by the AEWA MoP9 in December 2018.
10. In order to effectively monitor and report on the implementation of the Plan, it is proposed that a Dalmatian Pelican Task Force be established under the Seabird Working Group pursuant to Paragraph 9(9) of the Partnership text.
11. Proposed Terms of Reference for the establishment of East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership Dalmatian Pelican Task Force are at **Attachment 2**.

Decision:

- Adopt the draft decision annexed to this document, which refers to the draft Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Dalmatian Pelican; and
- Adopt the Terms of Reference for the Dalmatian Pelican Task Force annexed to this document, which will facilitate implementation of key actions outlined in the Action Plan.

Annex 1

International Single Species Action Plan for The Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*)

Submitted by Wetlands International on behalf of the Seabird Working Group

Alarmed that the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) was listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List in 2015 and that the East Asian population is declining rapidly in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway;

Noting that there are existing instruments and mechanisms that address migratory waterbirds in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway, including the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar);

Noting further that an International Single Species Action Plan has been developed for the Dalmatian Pelican covering its entire geographic range for joint adoption by the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), CMS, European Union and the EAAFP offers an opportunity for conservation of this highly threatened species;

Recalling Objective 5 in conjunction with Paragraph 7 of the Partnership Document, the Plan has been prepared by Partners and the Seabird Working Group in order to provide Range States, Partners and stakeholders with a clear and concise, flyway wide conservation framework with timelines and priorities for conservation action in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway;

Noting that the Plan has been developed in accordance with the EAAFP Single Species Task Force guidelines, as adopted by the 5th Meeting of the Partners, Siem Reap, Cambodia, December 2010;

Noting further that the Partners, the Seabird Working Group and the Secretariat have consulted with Range States, Partners, non-government organisations, researchers and individuals in 2017 and 2018 during the development of the Plan;

Observing the Action Plan sets out relevant biological information, known threats and necessary conservation actions to secure the Dalmatian Pelican from extinction; and

Recognising the urgency to adopt the Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Dalmatian Pelican under the auspices of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership and to develop an Implementation Plan in consultation with Partners and experts in 2019;

Noting further, it is proposed that a Dalmatian Pelican Task Force be established under the Seabird Working Group to work with Range States, Partners and stakeholders to facilitate implementation of the Plan. The Task Force's Terms of Reference are at **Attachment 2**;

*The 10th Meeting of the Partners
of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership:*

1. *Adopts* the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) as submitted to MoP10 at **Attachment 1**;
2. *Agrees* to establish an EAAFP Dalmatian Pelican Task Force under the Seabird Working Group pursuant to Paragraph 9(9) of the Partnership text;
3. *Adopts* Terms of Reference for the Dalmatian Pelican Task Force at **Attachment 2** which will continue to facilitate implementation of key actions outlined in the Plans;
4. *Requests* the Dalmatian Pelican Task Force, subject to available resources, host a workshop to assist the Ranges States, Partners and other stakeholders to develop an Implementation Plan and prioritise actions in 2019;
5. *Urges* Ranges States, Partners and other stakeholders to implement relevant provisions of the Action Plan (and Implementation Plan once produced) as a matter of priority;
6. *Encourages* Partners to provide technical and/or financial assistance to support activities outlined in the Plans;
7. *Instructs* the Secretariat to make the Plan available on the EAAFP website;
8. *Further instructs* the Secretariat to bring the Plan to the attention of all Range States and relevant stakeholders; and
9. *Requests* the Dalmatian Pelican Task Force to monitor the implementation of the Plan and to report on progress at MoP11.

Attachments

- 1 – International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*)
- 2 – Proposed Terms of Reference for EAAFP Dalmatian Pelican Task Force

Attachment II

Terms of Reference for EAAFP Dalmatian Pelican Task Force

Goal

To restore the Dalmatian Pelican's population to a positive growth rate for a period of at least three generations.

Role

The role of the EAAFP Dalmatian Pelican Task Force is to:

1. Coordinate and catalyse the implementation of the International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the Conservation of Dalmatian Pelican;
2. Stimulate and support Range States in the implementation of the ISSAP; and
3. Monitor and report on the implementation and the effectiveness of the ISSAP.

Remit

The EAAFP Dalmatian Pelican Task Force will:

1. Develop an Implementation Plan based on the International Single Species Action Plan for the Dalmatian Pelican and implement priorities outlined in them;
2. Coordinate the overall international implementation in the EAAF;
3. Raise funds for development and implementation of the Action Plan;
4. Assist Range States in producing national action plans, if required;
5. Ensure the Task Force is open to governmental and expert members from all key Range States and other relevant Partners.
6. Ensure regular and thorough monitoring of the species populations;
7. Stimulate and support scientific research in the species necessary for conservation;
8. Promote the protection of the network of critical sites for the species, by assisting Partners to develop new Flyway Site Network nominations, and encourage the designation of new protected areas by Partners;
9. Facilitate internal and external communication and exchange of scientific, technical, legal and other required information, including with other specialists and interested parties;
10. Assist with information in determination of the IUCN Red List status and population size and trends of the species;
11. Regularly monitor the effectiveness of implementation of the ISSAP and take appropriate action according to monitoring results;
12. Regularly report on the implementation of the ISSAP to the EAAFP Meeting of the Partners; and Contribute to revising the ISSAP and update every 10 years or as required.

Membership

The EAAFP Dalmatian Pelican Task Force will be open to:

1. designated representatives of EAAFP Governmental Partners of all principal Range States,
2. representatives of the relevant EAAFP Working Group (Seabird),
3. representatives of national experts and conservation organisations from all principal Range States, international organizations,
4. Chair/representative(s) of the Dalmatian Pelican Working Group to be established to oversee implementation of the Dalmatian Pelican ISSAP, and
5. other experts (not necessarily from the EAA Flyway) as required.

Officers

A Chairperson of the EAAFP Dalmatian Pelican Task Force will be elected amongst its members. This position should ideally be filled by an EAAFP Governmental Partner from either Range State (China and Mongolia). A Vice Chairperson should ideally be filled from the other Range State. These positions may be rotated on a three year basis.

A Coordinator post will be nominated by the Chairperson from among the Task Force members. The Coordinator will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Task Force, participate in fund raising, and shall act in close cooperation with the TF Chairperson, the EAAFP Secretariat and the relevant EAAFP Working Group (Seabird).

The coordinator will be a member of the Task Force and, ideally, represent an EAAFP Partner.

Meetings

The EAAFP Dalmatian Pelican Task Force should aim to hold face-to-face meetings at least once every three years, preferably in conjunction with MoPs. Other face-to-face meetings may be arranged if circumstances require. Between meetings, business will be conducted electronically such as via email, an appropriate Task Force website and list server.

Reporting

A report on the implementation of the SSAP will be produced for each EAAFP MoP according to a standard format agreed by the EAAFP Secretariat, with contributions from all major Range State Governmental Partners and Task Force members. Reports should be provided to the EAAFP Secretariat.

At each EAAFP MoP, the Task Force Chairperson, Task Force Coordinator, and/or the EAAFP Secretariat should give an overview report on Single Species Action Plan development and implementation, summarizing progress for each Task Force, lessons learned, challenges common to the Task Forces, and any adjustments needed. Other reports will be produced by Task Forces as required by the EAAFP Secretariat or relevant EAAFP Working Group.

Financing

The operations of the EAAFP Dalmatian Pelican Task Force, including the Coordinator post, are to be financed primarily by its members and the organizations they represent. The Lead Organisation should ideally support or raise funds for development and implementation of the SSAP, including the Coordinator post, and associated SSAP activities of the Task Force. Funds may be sought from members and various external sources. The EAAFP does not derive annual membership dues from its Partners and thus has limited resources. Accordingly the Secretariat cannot commit regular financial support and may only provide such if possible. Funding for SSAP activities of the Task Force or its members is to be sought from various external sources.