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### **Mission statement**

To conserve the world's most threatened waterfowl by focusing on direct action; developing, demonstrating and disseminating best conservation practice and processes, and actively promoting and encouraging information exchange on threatened waterfowl monitoring, research, conservation and public awareness world-wide. We will do this through producing and implementing international action plans, incorporating *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation tools, as necessary; by providing advice to policy makers, international conventions and practitioners, and encouraging information exchange and cooperation amongst threatened waterfowl conservationists and with other relevant conventions and organisations.

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### **Projected impact 2021–2025**

By the end of 2025, the Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group (TWSG) will have greatly increased its network of threatened waterfowl experts and enthusiasts, facilitating communication freely between a wide range of individuals and institutions. This network will cover all global regions and each of the taxa of interest to the group: 43 full species, 22 subspecies and 12 other populations. Collaboration and support for specific projects in Eurasia, Russia, China, Myanmar, Africa and Madagascar will highlight important

locally-run programmes for, in particular, Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*), Blue-winged Goose (*Cyanochen cyanoptera*), Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*), Madagascar Pochard (*Aythya innotata*), Pink-headed Duck (*Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*), Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), Scaly-sided Merganser (*Mergus squamatus*), Pacific Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) and Spectacled Eider (*Somateria fischeri*), to increase understanding of these highly threatened taxa and to see positive results in their numbers.

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### **Targets 2021–2025**

#### **ASSESS**

**T-001** Continue long-term monitoring of Spectacled Eider (*S. fischeri*) in Chaun Delta (the only monitoring site in Asia).

Status: On track

**T-014** Undertake coordinated mid-winter census of Baer's Pochard (*A. baeri*) across yway in January 2022.

Status: On track

**T-016** Assess protected areas in India for threatened waterfowl species.



National Park wetland in the state of Haryana: Common Pochard (42 individuals), Ferruginous Duck (6 individuals); (6) Sur Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary in the state of Uttar Pradesh; (7) Saman Bird Sanctuary wetlands in the state of Uttar Pradesh; (8) Jodhpur Jhal wetland in the state of Uttar Pradesh; (9) Mansarovar Lake in the state of Rajasthan; (10) Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in the state of Himachal Pradesh: Common Pochard (8096 individuals), Ferruginous Duck (359 individuals); (11) Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary wetland - Ramsar Site in the state of Punjab; (12) D'Ering Wildlife Sanctuary wetland in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

## PLAN

### Planning

**T-006 Conduct surveys for the world population of Scaly-sided Merganser (*M. squamatus*).** (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: A spatial model of the breeding range was built in 2019 (Xu *et al.*, 2021) and the range-wide surveys of 2019-2021 confirmed the model findings. Among 93 rivers supporting the breeding of Scaly-sided Mergansers in Russia, there were 66 rivers surveyed in 2019-21. Survey data are being processed for reporting. The International

Symposium for Conservation of Scaly-sided Mergansers was held in Yeoncheon, Republic of Korea on November 21st, 2023. The paper Moores, N. *et al.* (2023). "[Conservation status of the endangered Scaly-sided Merganser \*Mergus squamatus\* on the Korean Peninsula](#)". *Wildfowl*, 73, was published.

## Policy

**T-022 Develop and adopt a National Species Action Plan for the Red-breasted Goose (*B. ruficollis*) in Romania and Kazakhstan.** (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy-making: 0

Result description: Romanian Action Plan was published as "[Planul Național de acțiune pentru conservarea și managementul populației de gâscă cu gât roșu \(\*Branta ruficollis\*\), în perioada 2022–2032](#)". Kazakhstan plan draft was submitted in 2020 to the Ministry of Ecology and Nature of Kazakhstan (Annex A7-3). Currently the definition of "National Action Plan" is not mentioned in Kazakh legislation. The plan has not been published yet.

## ACT

### Conservation actions

**T-003 Reintroduce captive-bred Madagascar Pochard (*A. innotata*) at Lake Sofia, Madagascar.** (KSR 10)

Number of conservation translocations conducted: 0

Result description: Fourteen birds were released in 2023 (6 males and 8 females). During the year at least six captive-bred birds moved (ew) Lake Alaotra themselves, a distance of 330+km. Dispersal from the

**T-007 Implement Scaly-sided Merganser artificial nest programme.** (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 0

Result description: The project has been temporarily terminated because of the current political situation and impossibility to receive international support.

**T-008 Survey Pink-headed Duck (*R. caryophyllacea*) in Kachin state, northern Myanmar: permanent ongoing observations from ten camera traps in ten isolated locations for two years.** (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 0

Result description: A search was set to be developed in January 2024 for evidence of Pink-headed Duck in Kachin State, northern Myanmar. The search is intended to use remote-action capture cameras on floating platforms with sliding vertical poles and using camouflaged feeding station lures. The survey was intended to run for 16 weeks from 1st December 2023 but was delayed due to permission difficulties. Unfortunately, upon gaining permission to access only a portion of the environment (due to the deteriorating political situation) the survey found pollution from a nearby

gold mine had severely degraded the habitat. There are now ongoing efforts to locate a more suitable location free of such degradation and in isolation, with few humans in the vicinity.

**T-010 Continue short-term monitoring of Pacific Common Eider (*S. mollissima*) in Apapelgino (the only monitoring site in Asian breeding grounds).** (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 0

Result description: A pronounced decline ( $P < 0.01$ ) was reported in the nest density of the Pacific Common Eider in the Apapelgin River Delta. Geolocation allowed the location of wintering grounds of Chukotka breeding eiders. The monitoring is a PhD Project. Aerial surveys were implemented in 2019-2023 by Dr Sofia Rozenfeld and George Kirtaev (a pilot), Institute of Ecology and Evolution RAS. The results will be processed and published in the near future. As part of this study, the eastern population of the Lesser White-fronted Goose estimated

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already supporting relevant governmental institutions in the evaluation processes of individual investment projects (mostly



Red-breasted Goose was chosen for the annual fundraising drive Champions of the Flyway in Israel in March 2023. A

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