Tracking the Sociable Lapwing: conservation beyond the breeding grounds

Final Report of Darwin Project EIDPO035

Submitted in August 2011 by

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

in partnership with

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THIS REPORT

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Cover photograph: Sociable Lapwing observed as partof a flock of 30 birds in Great Rann of Kutch, Gugjarat (© Jugal Tiwari)

Darwin Initiative – Final Report

Darwin project information

Project Reference	EIDP0035
Project Title	Tracking the Sociable Lapwing: conservation beyond the breeding grounds
Host country(ies)	Kazakhstan, Russia, India, Syria, Iraq, Sudan & Turkey
UK Contract Holder Institution	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
UK Partner Institution(s)	Birdlife International
Host Country Partner Institution(s)	ACBK, RBCU, BNHS, DD, NI, SWS, SCWS, & AEWA
Darwin Grant Value	£141,000
Start/End dates of Project	1st April 2009 – 31st March 2011
Project Leader Name	Rob Sheldon
Project Website	www.birdlife.org/sociable-lapwing
Report Author(s) and date	Rob Sheldon, Johannes Kamp and Paul Donald, August 2011

1 Project Background

The Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* population may have fallen by as much as 90% during the past two decades. The results of an extremely successful Darwin project (ref 15-032) suggested that factors away from the breeding grounds were now limiting population recovery. Hunting of Sociable Lapwings on the western migratory route is thought to cause significant mortality.

Improved knowledge of the wintering range and migration routes will enable the implementation of appropriate conservation measures. The Sociable Lapwing International Species Action Plan has been agreed and an International Working Group under the aegis of the Africa-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement is operational across the species' range.

2 Project support to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

From the outset, this project has encompassed Kazakhstan (breeding grounds), Russia, Turkey, Syria, and Iraq (migration routes) and the wintering grounds (Sudan and India). We've engaged with other countries as the project has developed, notably Eritrea and Saudi Arabia. This project has helped all these range states to meet their international obligations to the CBD by contributing towards the thematic programme *Agricultural Biodiversity*. In addition some of the work overlaps with that within the programme *Dry and Humid Lands Biodiversity* (to avoid duplication this section only reports on the contribution to the *Agricultual Biodiversity* theme).

There are four programme elements and this project has contributed to them all as follows:

1) Assessments: We have built on the findings of the initial Sociable Lapwing Darwin project through further improvements to our knowledge of the migration routes and wintering grounds. Data gathered through satellite telemetry has identified in detail specific migration routes through the Middle East and into north-east Africa, and suggested new countries that may be important as stop-over sites and wintering areas. Crucially, we have identified major migration stop-over sites in Russia, Turkey and Syria and have tracked Sociable Lapwings to wintering grounds in India and Saudi Arabia for the first time (see **Annex 7**).

2) Adaptive management: Whilst we should not discount problems that may affect the reduced breeding population in the steppes of Kazakhstan, hunting has been identified as the key threat to the species, particularly in the range states of Syria and Iraq. We have continued to monitor the breeding grounds in Kazakhstan and have a clear understanding of the impact of grazing management on nesting birds. This will allow us to make rapid assessments of future changes in land-use on breeding Sociable Lapwing if necessary.

   Significant progress has been made through AEWA to address the hunting issue at all political levels within Syria. For the first time, the AEWA Implementation Review Process was initiated following a complaint by the Birdlife Middle East Secretariat in relation to illegal hunting of Sociable Lapwing within Syria (see **Annexes 8 & 9**).

3) Capacity building: Development of partner organisations has been at the heart of this project. Within Kazakhstan, ACBK have been responsible for implementing fieldwork for the duration of this project, within minimal input from the Darwin Project Leader. Across the range states, continued support has been given to all partner organisations with survey work and the awareness raising. In March 2011 and end of project workshop was held in Syria to which all key partner organisations made substantial contributions.

4) Mainstreaming: One of the key guiding strategies for this project continues to be the AEWA International Species Action Plan, originally published in 2004, with a review initiated in light of the findings of the previous Darwin project. A draft revised Action Plan has been agreed at a workshop in March 2011 in Syria, and the formal AEWA consultation process with contracting parties is underway. The first official meeting of the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group was held and Dr Mohammed Shobrak and Dr Rob Sheldon appointed as Chairman and Co-ordinator.

This project has addressed a number of CBD articles, in particular;

Articles 5, 16, 17 & 18. The Birdlife partnership and collaboration through the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) have been at the heart of this project from the outset. Whilst the focus has moved away from Kazakhstan, we have continued to work with ACBK in close co-operation on the breeding grounds and at key stopover sites. Maxim Koshkin, the previous Sociable Lapwing project leader has continued his career development by securing a Darwin Scholarship for study in the UK. Ruslan Urazliev has taken over the Sociable Lapwing work in Kazakhstan as part of his role with ACBK. Birdlife partners in Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Sudan and India have carried out work as planned and have made significant contributions to the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group.

Satellite tracking and comprehensive survey work on the migration routes have been underpinned by strong positive working relationships between partner organisations. Much of the dialogue around tracking satellite tagged birds has been done through email. One new component of the work has been the creation of a new web-site www.birdlife.org/sociable-lapwing to promote the satellite tracking and to inspire the general public about Sociable Lapwing conservation. The development of this web-site was made possible through collaboration with the Birdlife Secretariat in Cambridge who initiated this through their Preventing Extinctions Programme. The success of the Darwin-funded work has attracted considerable financial support from Swarowski Optik, now Species Champions of the Sociable Lapwing, who have funded this website.

An end-of-project workshop was combined with the first meeting of the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group at which all project partners were represented and made contributions.

Article 6. The Sociable Lapwing International Species Action Plan was initiated as part of the initial Darwin project (15-032), and has been further enhanced by the data collected in this project. New information on migration routes, wintering grounds and the hunting issue have all been used to update the final version of the SAP. This plan is now undergoing the final consultation process with the contracting parties of AEWA, with adoption expected later in 2011. Progress of the AEWA Sociable Lapwing Working Group was slow at the outset due to staff changes at ACBK (Maxim Koshkin moved to the UK to undertake post-graduate studies) but this has been given new impetus through the appointment of a new Chairman (Dr

Mohammad Shobrak of Saudi Arabia) and a working group co-ordinator (Dr Rob Sheldon of the RSPB).

Article 7. We have gained a more detailed knowledge of the migration routes and wintering grounds as this project has progressed. We have built on our understanding of the western migration route through the Middle East and identified a potentially important stop-over site in Saudi Arabia. The Arabian Peninsula may be a more important site than initially thought with a large wintering flock reported in Oman in November 2010.

One of the key successes of the project was tracking a satellite tagged bird on the eastern flyway down to India via Pakistan, and the discovery of the first larger stopover site in Uzbekistan in October 2010.

Articles 8, 10 & 11. During the course of this project, the building blocks have been put in place to enable effective in situ conservation measures and biodiversity planning to be implemented through the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Species Action Plan.

Article 12. The initial Darwin project placed a great emphasis on direct training of field staff and students, particularly in Kazakhstan. The focus of this project has through experiential training of staff in Kazakhstan. Rob Sheldon made two short visits to Kazakhstan in May 2009 and 2010 to check on progress of field staff. Some direct training was given on the attaching of satellite transmitters to Maxim Koshkin in 2010. In August 2010, Vladimir Chapurin joined Johannes Kamp and Rob Sheldon on an expedition to the Uralsk region to undertake searches for stop-over sites. Rob Sheldon and Maxim Koshkin visited Viktor Fedosov in Manych wetlands in September 2009 to undertake surveys with Russian colleagues and ensure standard methods were being used. RSPB sabbatical staff undertook survey work with colleagues in India and Syria.

Maxim Koshkin was awarded a Darwin Scholarship in September 2010 to enable him to undertake a Masters degree at the University of East Anglia in the UK. Further training, such as data presentation and statistical analysis has been given to Maxim during the course of this project by Dr Paul Donald and Johannes Kamp of the RSPB. Maxim's Masters research thesis concerned the distribution of steppe birds in Kazakhstan, contributing both to this project and to another Darwin-funded project, Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative (Project Ref-No. 18004). As a direct result of his involvement in the two Darwin-funded Sociable Lapwing projects, Maxim has recently been offered a PhD scholarship at the University of East Anglia working on other threatened Central Asian bird species

A bursary was received by Ruslan Urazliev to attend the Cambridge Student Conference on Conservation Science.

Article 13. All Birdlife project partners are in regular contact with their CMS and CBD focal points and ensure that data generated by the project are fed into the appropriate reporting mechanisms.

We've used the revised web-site, The Amazing Journey, to engage with a wide range of audiences. The web-site has been running since April 2010, and to date we've had more than 31,000 visits to the site – this is encouraging and we'll continue to invest and develop this component of our work (see **Annex 16**).

Literature on the Sociable Lapwing has been produced in a number of local languages (Turkish, Arabic, Gujarat), and distributed during fieldwork. Posters and pin badges produced during the first Darwin project have also been made available to project partners.

3 Project Partnerships

The project has continued to build on the solid partnerships developed in the first Darwin project. RSPB have continued to support ACBK in Kazakhstan through a Darwin-funded research project within the "Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative" on steppe conservation and protected area management (Project Ref-No. 18004). Relationships between the two projects continue to be strong and positive. Sociable Lapwing was included in a major assessment of steppe bird trends in Kazakhstan (see **Annex 10**). Rob Sheldon continues to work with ACBK field staff through short visits in the breeding season to assist with experiential training, and will

continue to work closely with Ruslan Urazaliev. ACBK were supportive of survey work undertaken by Rob Sheldon, Johannes Kamp and Vladimir Chapurin in August 2010.

Given the focus on the migration routes and wintering grounds, there has been an increase in working with partners such as Doğa Derneği in Turkey, the Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife, and Nature Iraq. These partnerships have benefitted from excellent support from the Birdlife Secretariat in the Middle East. All three project partners within this migration corridor have undertaken excellent survey work and awareness raising within their respective countries. RSPB sabbatical staff were well supported in Syria in the springs of 2010 and 2011, including by the Desert Commission of Syria who enthusiastically supported Sociable Lapwing work. They were especially supportive of the AEWA Implementation Review Process in March 2010.

Work on the wintering grounds has continued by the Sudanese Wildlife Society and some small scale surveys have been undertaken in Eritrea by the local representative of the African Bird Club. Further partnership building on the African wintering grounds (Eritrea and Ethiopia) is underway through AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group.

Although the Bombay Natural History Society is the official project partner in India, they have encouraged us to work closely with the Gujarat Ecological Society through the Indian Bird Conservation Network. BNHS remain supportive of the project and represented India at the recent Sociable Lapwing workshop in Syria. The Gujarat Ecological Society have been excellent project partners, overseeing survey work on the wintering grounds in the Rann of Kutch area of Gujarat. They have undertaken much awareness-raising on the ground and supported RSPB sabbatical staff in January 2010 and 2011. Informal links with Indian birdwatchers and conservationists have been maintained in areas where flocks were recorded in 2010, mainly to encourage birdwatchers to look out for colour-ringed birds.

The Russian Bird Conservation Union (RBCU) are no longer recognised as the official Birdlife partner in Russia and whilst we have not been working directly with RBCU, we have continued our work, particularly in south-western Russia (Manych wetlands) through local ornithologist, Victor Fedosov. Maxim Koshkin and Rob Sheldon undertook two weeks survey work in September 2009 in Manych wetlands with Victor Fedosov and local students from Stavropol University, Russia.

Through the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group, new partnerships have been developed with individuals and organisations in Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

One of the key components of this Darwin follow up project has been the use of satellite telemetry to direct survey effort. In all instances the reaction of partner organisations to new information has been superb and is indicative of the strong partnership working that has been at the core of the project.

4 Project Achievements

4.1 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

The project aimed to build on the first Darwin Initiative by providing a framework for the conservation of this species across its migratory routes and wintering grounds. The information gathered as part of this project will now enable a reappraisal of the species' Critically Endangered status, leading to down-listing within the next two to five years. The building blocks are now in place to ensure that we can tackle the key threat to Sociable Lapwings on the migration routes, particularly through tackling hunting in the Middle East. We have effectively used AEWA as a mechanism to challenge the existence illegal hunting of Sociable Lapwings in Syria (see **Annex 8**).

4.2 Outcomes: achievement of the project purpose and outcomes

The project purpose was “To extend and develop local capacity to better understand and improve the conservation status of the Sociable Lapwing in all key countries along its migration routes and in its wintering areas.” We have achieved this through working with key partners in range states across the migratory route in the west. High quality survey work has been undertaken by project partners in Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Sudan and Eritrea. The eastern migratory route has been identified for the first time using satellite tracking and local teams, with the support of RSPB staff, have undertaken survey work in north-west India.

The completion of the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Species Action Plan has been instrumental in bringing partners together to work in a co-ordinated and objective effort to further the conservation of the species. This Action Plan is undergoing the consultation process and will be officially adopted at the AEWA Meeting of the Parties in October 2011.

We have successfully used AEWA by undertaking the first Implementation Review Process anywhere in the African-Eurasian region. An international team visited Syria in late February 2010 to review a complaint made by the Birdlife International Middle East Secretariat related to illegal hunting of Sociable Lapwing. This has highlighted to the Syrian authorities their international obligations to protect key Sociable Lapwing sites. Dr Rob Sheldon (Darwin Project leader) was part of this international team.

We expect to see the Sociable Lapwing down-listed to a lower IUCN category of threat within the next two to five years.

4.3 Outputs (and activities)

The Project Team are satisfied with the progress made against the expected project outputs. At an end of project workshop in Palmyra, Syria in March 2011, project partners and attendees from across the range states were unanimous in their praise for the projects achievements and progress made over the course of the last 5 years (covering the lifespan of both Darwin grants). Full details of the success of the outputs and activities, and the extent to which indicators were met, are given in **Annex 1**.

The majority of the outputs have been achieved, and in many cases exceeded. A number of outputs and project activities are ongoing as part of the Internal Species Action Plan, and through the work of the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group. For example, satellite tracking has continued in 2011 and further tags will be attached in 2012.

One key problem has been the gathering of objective and quantitative data on losses through hunting at stop-over sites. Progress on this will be made through the implementation of the Species Action Plan, although political difficulties in Syria, the key country where hunting has been identified as a key threat, will make tackling this problematic in the near future.

A number of scientific publications are due within the next 12-18 months. The wealth of data collected since 2004 ensures that high quality publications will be forthcoming.

The continued support of Birdlife International and Swarovski Optik (through the Preventing Extinctions Programme) has been vital in the development of a project web-site to replace the initial site. The Amazing Journey web-site will be a key legacy of this project, and is expected to become increasingly important as we develop this further.

4.4 Project standard measures and publications

See **Annex 4** and **Annex 5**

4.5 Technical and Scientific achievements and co-operation

A key component of this project was the use of satellite tracking to identify the migration routes of Sociable Lapwings, both furthering knowledge on the western route, but also identifying the route taken in the east. Satellite tags were not used in 2009 as we were aware that new lightweight tags (5g as opposed to 9.5g) were being developed. We acquired eight 5g tags for fitting in 2010. One of the tags from 2008 continued to provide us with data and the ability to alert project partners for survey work. In 2010 we attached eight of the new lightweight tags, although not all provided us with good quality data perhaps because of harness failure. We continued to track a number of birds along the western migratory route, and for the first time we tracked a bird through Uzbekistan, Pakistan and into north-west India (that subsequently returned to the breeding grounds in Kazakhstan in 2011). This was a significant breakthrough, and has helped identify new sites for survey effort in both Uzbekistan and Pakistan (surveys are being planned for 2011 and 2012). On the western route we have identified an area in Saudi Arabia that could be important as a stop-over site, and maybe as a wintering area. Birds continue to consistently winter in Sudan confirming the importance of this country as a wintering area, and given the proximity to the eastern border, Eritrea and Ethiopia may be equally important. Further work is needed to clarify this.

We continued to undertake fieldwork on the breeding grounds in Kazakhstan. This work is now largely undertaken by ACBK with little input from RSPB staff. Ruslan Urazliev (ACBK) has spent an increasing amount of time on the project to replace Maxim Koshkin who commenced a MSc course in the UK (through a Darwin Scholarship).

In 2009 (121 nests) and 2010 (131 nests), were located and monitored. In addition, in 2009, 133 chicks and 15 adults were colour-ringed, and in 2010, 143 chicks colour ringed. These data will be added to the information collected since 2004 to enable a comprehensive analysis of nest survival and breeding success. Work on data analysis and the resulting peer-reviewed scientific papers is underway.

Scientific collaboration with the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative Darwin project is ongoing and is covered elsewhere in this report (also see **Annex 10**).

Ruslan Urazliev received a bursary to attend the Cambridge Student Conference on Conservation Science.

One peer-reviewed scientific paper has been produced to date, Kamp et al (2010), historic breeding of Sociable Lapwing in Xinjiang, Chinese Birds, 1 (70-73). Analyses are underway which will lead to the preparation of two further papers for submission to peer-reviewed journals. The work made a significant contribution to a book chapter in Facing Extinction (Donald et al) published in 2010.

4.6 Capacity building

The success of this project has been based on the development of strong working relationships, and enhancing the capacity, of our project partners. In this project, the focus has switched from the breeding grounds to the migratory routes and wintering areas. However, the legacy of the previous Darwin project in building capacity through training students in Kazakhstan has meant we have continued to get high quality data from the breeding grounds. We have continued this approach of working with students, and have trained a further six. In April 2009, Maxim Koshkin organised a workshop on ‘estimating numbers of wild animals’ for the most promising undergraduate biology students from six universities in Kazakhstan – 18 students attended the 5-day course. Project staff supported the 3rd summer camp for 20 biology students at Korghalzhyn State Nature Reserve in August 2009.

It is particularly pleasing to note that despite Maxim Koshkin leaving the project to further his formal education, other former students (notably Ruslan Urazliev) have been able to replace him without detriment to the project. Another former student, Alena Shmalenko, is now an IBA co-ordinator employed by ACBK. The ability for ACBK to deliver a high standard of fieldwork with very little input from the RSPB (the lead partner) is one of the long-lasting legacies of the two Darwin projects. Dr Rob Sheldon visited the field teams in May/June 2009 and 2010 to provide support, particularly with satellite tagging. Johannes Kamp has continued to offer

support and training whilst undertaking his own PhD research through the Altyn Dala Darwin project. Albert Salemgareev, first trained as an undergraduate in the initial Darwin project, submitted a thesis supervised by Johannes Kamp in 2007 and was subsequently employed full time by ACBK, where he is no one of the leading scientific staff (scientific coordinator of the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative).

Maxim Koshkin and Ruslan Urazliev both attended the Cambridge Student Conference on Conservation Science, which has aided their long-term development. Maxim Koshkin was awarded a Darwin Fellowship in Sept 2010 allowing him to undertake an MSc in Conservation at the University of East Anglia. Following the success of this, he has now accepted a PhD scholarship from the same university to continue his research into threatened Central Asian birds.

Work has continued with project partners, primarily through identifying survey areas and priorities, but also with fund-raising. Support has been given to project partners in India and Syria through the use of experienced RSPB surveyors working with field teams. Survey work undertaken by experienced field teams in Iraq was used to train a number of less experienced staff in field methods and bird identification skills. Maxim Koshkin and Rob Sheldon supported Viktor Fedosov and students from Stavrapol University with an expedition to the Manych wetlands in September 2009.

4.7 Sustainability and Legacy

The identification of the eastern migration route into India, and further data on the western routes provide the legacy on which future conservation action can be based. From this, and the previous Darwin project, the enduring legacy is the identification of the key threats to the species, and the commitment of partner organisations to implement the International Species Action Plan. The AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group has been formally established with agreed Terms of Reference, a Chair (Dr Mohammed Shobrak) and a co-ordinator (Dr Rob Sheldon, working with Ruslan Urazliev of ACBK).

From the outset the Sociable Lapwing has been seen as a flagship species for steppe conservation in Kazakhstan, and through this follow-up project has been seen as a flagship migratory species, particularly on the western flyway.

Capacity building in Kazakhstan was extraordinarily successful (see above). Indicators for sustainability are the increasing proportion of fieldwork, data handling and administrative work that is now undertaken by the partners in Kazakhstan (now over 90%). ACBK in particular, are benefiting from direct input into project design, data analysis and scientific publication (see **Annex 10**).

This enduring legacy is already being clearly demonstrated - although this project reporting period covers April 2009 to March 2011, it is a notable achievement that Ruslan Urazaliev, a former project trainee, is now the new project co-ordinator in Kazakhstan. Over the last six months he has trained project staff (Kseniya Yakhovnets and Timur Iskakov) in general field skills, colour-ringing and data management. Project partners on the migration routes are continuing survey work in 2011/12 without the guaranteed funding provided by the Darwin Initiative projects.

As a result of the main and follow-up Darwin projects on Sociable Lapwing, ACBK has employed three former students full-time, and several others have been able to find posts in conservation in Kazakhstan.

5 Lessons learned, dissemination and communication

The key lesson from this project, though not unique, is the importance of building strong collaborations that can cross national boundaries, and that are not over reliant on Western conservation expertise. The availability of a follow up grant to our first project also highlights the value in long-term support for research and conservation projects to ensure that actions can be followed through to their natural conclusion. Thanks to 5 years of funding through the Darwin Initiative, we are now in a position where International mechanisms, through AEWA and CMS, can be utilised to ensure a long-term future for the Sociable Lapwing and other threatened steppe species.

5.1 Darwin identity

Project staff have been keen to promote the Darwin Initiative in all project outputs and acknowledge funding wherever possible. Numerous scientific presentations have been made by the project staff and the huge contribution made by the Darwin Initiative acknowledged to a wide range of audiences – some examples are given here:

Student Conference on Conservation Science, Cambridge/UK (Ruslan Urazliev)

Annual Conference of the German Ornithologist's Union (Johannes Kamp)

BOU conference (Rob Sheldon)

UK Birdfair 2011 (Rob Sheldon)

AEWA Implementation Review Process workshop in Syria (Rob Sheldon)

End of project workshop (Rob Sheldon and Johannes Kamp)

The Amazing Journey web-site has acknowledged the Darwin Initiative and will continue to do so. To date the web-site has received more than 31,000 visits, and we expect this to increase.

Expedition/survey reports that are produced by partners are expected to acknowledge the Darwin Initiative and use the Darwin logo where possible (see **Annex 11** for an example cover page of a report, and **Annexes 13 - 15** for examples of information materials).

6 Monitoring and evaluation

In addition to the required Darwin reporting, the project has been reviewed regularly by RSPB peers and through the RSPB annual staff appraisal system. Informal reviews and update meetings have been held between the Project Leader (Rob Sheldon) and senior staff from RSPBs International and Conservation Science teams.

Feedback on the Darwin follow up project was given to the inaugural AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group meeting in Syria in 2011, where all project partners were represented. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

There were no changes to the log-frame during the life of the project. The outputs, activities and indicators developed at the start of the project remained fit for purpose and largely met. The delay in purchasing new light-weight satellite tags in 2009 was overcome through increased effort in 2010.

6.1 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

The key comment from the first annual report review relates to the delay in satellite tagging. The reviewer accepted that the delay was justified due to technological advancements, with new lightweight tags being available only in the second year of this project. We think we have made up for the lost year of data through a sustained effort in 2010 to get tags deployed on eight birds in two areas of Kazakhstan. There have been some knock-on consequences with some of the data collection and thus our ability to undertake certain activities – eg modelling of winter habitat etc (see **Annex 1**). However, we have overcome this by ensuring that all activities that were not achieved were built into the International Species Action Plan.

There was a general comment about further clarification /detail regarding project partnerships. Hopefully this has been addressed in this report. However, to summarise, partnership working across the range states have been very strong despite challenging countries within which to work. Close collaboration with Birdlife International, particularly the Middle East Secretariat has been invaluable. Working closely with AEWA has enabled concrete conservation actions to be implemented in Syria, as well as the legacy of a well-supported International Species Action Plan and Species Working Group.

7 Finance and administration

7.1 Project expenditure

Item	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Travel and subsistence			
Operating costs			
Capital items/equipment (specify)			
Others (specify)			
Salaries (specify by individual)			
TOTAL			

Explantory notes

[a]Overheads - £1k budgeted for audit costs was not required

[b]Travel and subsistence costs – some range state T&S costs reported under operating costs.

[c]Others – relates to production of information materials produced in range states but reported against operating costs

7.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Some of the following additional funding was secured during the period of the previous Darwin project, but has been included here has it has contributed to the project plan, outputs and activities of the current project:

Funder	Contribution	Period	Purpose
Swarovski Optik	c£20,000	2010-2011	Establishment of the Amazing Journey web-site
Swarovski Optik	>£30,000	2008-2011	Preventing Extinctions Programme
Rufford	£4990	2008-2009	Satellite tagging and surveys
OSME	£1320	2008-2009	Satellite tagging and surveys
AEWA	£10,000	2008-2009	Satellite tagging and surveys

Swarovski Optik have continued their support of the Sociable Lapwing work through the Preventing Extinctions Programme committing to funding work until March 2014.

7.3 Value of DI funding

In the absence of Darwin Initiative funding, very little (perhaps none) of the work described in this report would have been accomplished, as no alternative funding was available

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2009 - March 2011	Actions required/planned for next period
Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve • The conservation of biological diversity, • The sustainable use of its components, and • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources		The conservation status of Sociable Lapwing is likely to be down-listed in the near future (2-5years). By initiating work in the Middle East, notably Syria, to tackle illegal hunting, this project will result in substantial future benefits for other threatened quarry species.	
Purpose: To extend and develop local capacity to better understand and improve the conservation status of the Sociable Lapwing in all key countries along its migration routes and in its wintering areas	Distribution and threats in passage and wintering range states documented Targets and conservation measures agreed in key range states by end of project Actions initiated to protect key passage sites in Turkey and Syria	Completed and ongoing: an analysis of threats, and required conservation measures, has been agreed and included within the AEWA Sociable Lapwing Action Plan. The SAP is currently being adopted by AEWA. Ongoing: actions to ensure enhanced protection of key sites are included in the AEWA Sociable Lapwing Action Plan	Much of the future work that is required is within the AEWA Sociable Lapwing Action Plan. A draft of the plan has been agreed by the Sociable Lapwing International Working Group and we aren't expecting any major changes to this document. Continued work with Birdlife partners will seek to enhance protection of key sites along the migratory routes and wintering areas. Funding is in place through the Birdlife Preventing Extinctions Programme until March 2014
Output 1. Satellite tag attachment and colour-ringing of birds on breeding grounds continues.	At least 4 satellite tags fitted to birds in at least 2 regions of Kazakhstan and 250 birds fitted with individual colour ring combinations	Eight satellite tags fitted in May/June 2010. Four tags were deployed on birds in eastern Kazakhstan with the remaining four tags attached to birds in the core study area. In 2009, 133 chicks and 15 adults were colour-ringed in Kazakhstan. In 2010, a further 143 chicks were colour-ringed. Subsequent re-sightings away from the breeding grounds were very low, which fits the hypothesis that the world population is much higher than previously thought. Re-sighting data from the breeding grounds will be analysed to estimate annual survival rates.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2009 - March 2011	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 1.1 Locate breeding colonies in Kazakhstan and attach colour rings and satellite tags		Additional breeding colonies were located in the east of Kazakhstan during survey work to attach satellite tags. Detailed work on these colonies was not possible due to time constraints and the need to focus on locating adults to satellite tag. A returning tagged bird led to the location of a new breeding area about 200km north-east of Kazakhstan.	
Activity 1.2 Undertake surveys of post-breeding flocks to look for tagged/ringed birds		Surveys of post-breeding flocks were undertaken in the core study area during the months of July and August (2009 and 2010) A survey of the Naurzum state nature reserve and the Torghay river valley was undertaken by Johannes Kamp and three local ornithologists in July/Aug 2009. A total of 2722 Sociable Lapwings were counted across 43 sites, with 41 of those within the Torghay valley. The largest flock exceeded 500 individuals, which is the largest flock seen in Kazakhstan since 1939 (see **Annex 11**). An additional survey of historically used areas was undertaken in the Ural river valley and the Mugodzharskoe area in the western part of Kazakhstan in August 2010. Only small numbers of birds were seen but the habitat appeared to be suitable as both stop-over sites and also for breeding. This survey work was undertaken by Rob Sheldon, Johannes Kamp and Vladimir Chapurin from Uralsk University.	
Activity 1.3 Canon netting expedition by UK expert to catch adult birds in post-breeding flocks		This activity was not undertaken due to logistical difficulties. After initial enquiries to official agencies within Kazakhstan it was clear that importing canon netting equipment (including gun powder) was going to be a hugely difficult task. However, not undertaking this activity did not impact on the delivery on any of the project outputs.	
Output 2. Migration routes and stop-over areas are identified across the species' world range	Satellite tracking and observation of colour-ringed birds demonstrate migration routes and wintering areas of eastern and western populations	Satellite tagged data continued to be received from a bird tagged under the previous Darwin project, and a further eight birds satellite tagged in 2010. The eastern migration route has been described for the first time. Knowledge of the western migration route has been enhanced and key stop-over sites confirmed.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2009 - March 2011	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 2.1. Undertake survey work at Manych Wetlands and other sites in Caucasus, southwest Russia		The second international expedition to Kumo-Manych Depression in South Russia (Stavropolskij Krai and Republic of Kalmykia) was organized by the project in September 2009. The main aim of this expedition was to refine the numbers of Sociable Lapwing using this area and to collect data on habitat use and possible threats to the species. Satellite tagged Sociable Lapwings have used this area in previous years. From 3 to 16 of September 2009 large areas of potentially suitable habitat were surveyed by 5 independent field teams, consisting of representatives of RSPB, ACBK, Stavropol State University and local ornithologists. A total of more than 4000 Sociable Lapwings was recorded with up to 1500 of them potentially being different individuals. The highest single day count reached 1087 birds. With most of the birds being checked for rings only one was found to be colour-ringed (marked as a juvenile in Kostanaj region of Kazakhstan in July 2009). The project had fantastic logistical support from Jeff Gordon, Luba Malovichka and Viktor Fedosov In September 2010 Viktor Fedosov undertook three weeks of survey and monitoring in the Manych wetland area, near Stavrapol in SW Russia. We are currently awaiting a final project report, but regular email correspondence during the survey work suggests that large numbers of Sociable Lapwings were located with flocks of 900+ reported. The total number of birds seen is likely to be higher than in previous surveys further highlighting the importance of this area as a key migration and stop-over site.	
Activity 2.2 Undertake survey work in Ceylanpinnar and other areas in eastern Turkey		Surveys were undertaken by Doğa Derneği in Sept/Oct 2009 and 2010. In 2009 the focus was on the known key-site of Ceylanpinnar, and a maximum of 2793 Sociable Lapwings were recorded, with the largest single flock of 1672 individuals. No colour-ringed birds were observed, despite checking c86% individuals. Three survey teams expanded the survey area in 2010. One team focused on the Sanliurfa Province (which includes Ceylanpinnar), a second team on Mus Province and a final team on Erzurum Province. A total of 6612 Sociable Lapwing were recorded, 5586 from Sanliurfa, 854 from Mus, and 172 from Erzurum.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2009 - March 2011	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 2.3 Undertake survey work in northern Syria		Surveys were undertaken in Feb/Mar 2010 and 2011. Survey teams comprised of members of staff from SSCW, The Desert Commission and RSPB staff. In 2010 a total of 391 Sociable Lapwing were recorded, with the largest flock comprising 116 individuals. Hunting parties were observed at 5 sites know to be occupied by Sociable Lapwing, although no hunting was observed. One exception was Lake Jabbul where shooting of wildfowl was apparent. In 2011 very few birds were seen compared to previous years; a total of 23 individuals on three occasions, the largest flock being 20 birds. It is likely that the prolonged period of no rainfall resulted in fewer birds stopping in Syria on migration.	
Activity 2.4 Undertake survey work in Iraq		Surveys were undertaken in October 2009 and Feb/March 2010 by two Nature Iraq teams working in the Kurdistan, central and western areas of Iraq. As expected, the survey work proved to be challenging given the nature of the security problems within the country. Unfortunately no Sociable Lapwing were located. The teams collected a substantial amount of habitat data that has been stored on a GIS to inform future search efforts. On 15th March, after the survey work had been completed, a satellite tagged bird transmitted from Tharthar Lake in central Iraq. Despite a rapid response from Nature Iraq it was not possible to locate this bird. Experienced Nature Iraq field staff also used these surveys as an opportunity to train new fieldworkers in survey methods and bird identification.	
Activity 2.5 Track satellite tagged birds and provide weekly updates to partner countries		Satellite tracking data is down-loaded by RSPB research staff every 3-5 days from the Argos system and where necessary is relayed by Rob Sheldon to the relevant partners on the grounds. Some examples are given below: Autumn 2009 and 2010 - Viktor Fedosov was directed to areas to search based on satellite tag data 15th March 2010 – Nature Iraq responded to survey request 4th Oct 2010 – Doğa Derneği responded to a survey request and located a total of 846 individuals between 9-13th Oct in this area.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2009 - March 2011	Actions required/planned for next period
		January 2011, a team from Saudi Arabia responded to requests for surveying the Tabuk area. Unfortunately the birds were very mobile and could not be located. It was difficult to co-ordinate targeted effort in Sudan due to the poor signal quality. In January 2011, the Gujarat Ecological Society located up to 90 birds from where satellite data was received. Targeted survey effort in Uzbekistan led to the discovery of 200 Sociable Lapwings at a previously poorly known stop-over site. In addition to the above examples, the Amazing Journey web-site is updated when new satellite information is available, so tagged birds can be tracked by project partners and the general public.	
Activity 2.6 Undertake survey work in additional countries as dictated by 2.5		Saudi Arabia - brief surveys were undertaken to try and locate a satellite tagged bird. Initially we thought that Saudi Arabia may be utilised on migration, but it could be an important wintering area. These will be followed up with additional surveys in 2011/12.	
Output 3. Location, extent and habitat of the Sociable Lapwing's wintering areas clarified	Project partners locate Sociable Lapwings in the field in winter Predictive models of winter distribution produced using data collected in field by project partners	Sociable Lapwings located by project partners in India. Satellite tag data suggests Saudi Arabia could be an important wintering area. Data received from Oman suggesting that the Arabian peninsula may also be more important than previously thought. The development of predictive models has not been possible given the amount of data that has been collected on the wintering grounds. However, this remains a priority activity within the Species Action Plan. Habitat data is collected by survey teams, and the species does seem eclectic in its habitat choice in winter (and migration). Distribution appears to be influenced more by climate rather than habitat availability and this may be a more effective direction of research in the future.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2009 - March 2011	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 3.1 Undertake survey work in India		Work in north-west India has been co-ordinated by Gujarat Ecological Society (GES). In Dec 2009, a short survey located no Sociable Lapwings (the area has recent records). In Jan/Feb 2010 a team including RSPB sabbatical staff (Pete Akers) recorded Sociable Lapwings at two sites, Thol and Banni, west of Ahmedabad. A total of 51 birds were observed, with the largest single flock being 33 individuals. In Jan/Feb 2011 RSPB sabbatical staff (Jonathan Taylor) joined the GES team and surveyed a large area of the Rann of Kutch. The team located birds in two areas, but also followed up sightings of Sociable Lapwings from local birdwatchers/ornithologists. The largest flock recorded was 90 individuals near Ahmedabad. The combination of searches and linking with birdwatching networks/contacts proved effective in the vast expanse of north-west India.	
Activity 3.2 Undertake survey work in Sudan		Survey work proved difficult in Sudan due to drought conditions and logistical problems. Delays with transferring money to Sudan (UK banks can't send money to institutions in Sudan) caused some issues, although survey work was still possible, it was undertaken at sub-optimal times. The major problem was drought conditions – satellite tagged birds were recorded in the border areas of Eritrea-Ethiopia- Sudan. These areas can't be surveyed due to security restrictions/difficulties. Additional survey work is planned by the Sudanese Wildlife Society in December 2011 and January 2012.	
Activity 3.3 Undertake survey work in additional countries as dictated by 2.5		Survey work has been initiated in Eritrea through the African Bird Club local representative. Development of this partnership is in its infancy but results are encouraging. Although birds have not been located, questioning local villagers suggests that future survey work should continue (see activity 4.1). Survey work was not undertaken by the Darwin project team, but a record of 90 Sociable Lapwings in Oman was relayed to us through the Amazing Journey web-site. This suggests that the Arabian Peninsula may be more important than previously thought and more survey work is required there in the future.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2009 - March 2011	Actions required/planned for next period
Output 4 Causes and degree of threats at key passage and wintering sites assessed	Causes of mortality of individual birds identified Estimates of land cover change at key passage and wintering sites quantified	With hindsight, this output was optimistic. However, hunting remains the key threat on passage for the western migratory population, although direct observations of mortality were not witnessed. Greater effort is required in collecting data from local hunters in the future, and this is arguably more important than continued surveys of birds. Work on land cover change has not been undertaken but remains a key activity within the Sociable Lapwing Species Action Plan.	
Activity 4.1 Undertake questionnaire surveys of local people during survey work in all range states		**Iraq** – local villagers and shepherds were shown pictures of Sociable Lapwing and confusion species (Northern, Red-wattled, White-tailed and Spur-winged Lapwings). Only a few were able to distinguish the birds and those that were recorded, and the areas targeted for survey work (see **Annex 12**). No reports of hunting by local villagers were reported. **Syria** (2010) – The survey team made a lot of effort to discuss hunting with local villagers. Hunting was widespread, although no hunting of Sociable Lapwing was observed. Reports from villagers suggested that 'foreign' hunters shoot and kill everything possible. **Syria** (2011) – Local villagers, shepherds and hunters were shown pictures of Sociable Lapwing from the Collins Bird Guide. Many recognised Sociable Lapwing and were able to say whether the species was present. During survey work, hunters often departed the area when approached (hunting is illegal in Syria) **Eritrea** (2011) – A total of 37 villagers and shepherds were shown pictures of Sociable Lapwing and confusion species (Northern and Spur-winged Lapwings). Eleven recognised the species and had seen the bird in the area in previous years, and of these three had seen the bird in February 2011.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2009 - March 2011	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 4.2 Undertake prolonged observations of migrating/wintering flocks to assess causes of mortality		Despite observations of flocks by survey teams, this proved problematic in that mortality was never witnessed. Behaviour of birds located on migration was observed, but this consisted primarily of feeding or roosting birds. In Syria, direct hunting of Sociable Lapwing was not observed, but it is clear that hunting remains a widespread issue in this country in particular. Anecdotal information collated during the AEWA Implementation Review Process confirms the hypothesis that hunting is the key threat to Sociable Lapwing. One of the key remaining challenges facing the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group is quantifying this threat.	
Activity 4.3 Undertake analysis of land cover data at key sites to assess long-term change		This activity was not completed, although it remains a key activity within the Sociable Lapwing Species Action Plan.	
Output 5 Public awareness raised in all key migration and wintering areas on the importance of Sociable Lapwing and the degree and nature of threats that it faces	Local people become involved in monitoring and protection by end of project	All monitoring is now undertaken by local project partners across the range states. Good progress has been made on raising general awareness of Sociable Lapwings in India, Turkey, Syria and Iraq with information materials produced in the relevant languages.	
Activity 5.1 Production of information materials (India)		See **Annex 13** for a leaflet produced by Gujarat Ecological Society for distribution during fieldwork.	
Activity 5.2 Production of information materials (Arabic)		See **Annex 14** for a leaflet produced in Arabic by Nature Iraq, SSCW and the Birdlife Middle East office. Copies of this leaflet were also available to partners in Saudi Arabia	
Activity 5.3 Production of information materials (Turkish)		See **Annex 15** of a poster produced by Doğa Derneği for distribution during survey work	
Activity 5.4 Production of information materials (Russian/Kazakh)		Posters and pin badges produced in Russian and Kazakh during the first Darwin project were distributed during fieldwork throughout Kazakhstan.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2009 - March 2011	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 5.5 Update Sociable Lapwing website		The original project web-site (www.sociablelapwing.org) linked to the ACBK home page has been replaced by the new Amazing Journey web-site (www.birdlife.org/sociable-lapwing). This is a minor, yet positive change to our original plans. Swarovski Optik funded the development of this additional web-site with the emphasis on the satellite tagging aspect of the work. Birdlife International played a crucial part in developing this project. To date we have had in excess of 31,000 visits to the site, and postings from birdwatchers have led to new discoveries about Sociable Lapwing, notably 90 birds recorded in Oman. Funding for this site is now in place until 2013. Through the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group a web-site will be developed for technical material. All project reports from the two Darwin projects will be made available through this new web-site.	
Output 6: International and national Species Action Plans developed and agreed within each of the key range states	End of project International SAP revision workshop held National SAP meetings held and plans published	An end of project workshop was held, and notably this was combined with the inaugural meeting of the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group. National Action Plans have yet to be produced by individual range states but are key activities in the final International Species Action Plan.	
Activity 6.1 Plan International SAP workshop		See Activity 6.2	
Activity 6.2 Hold International SAP workshop		An end of project workshop was combined with the 1st AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group meeting, held in Palmyra, Syria, 18-20th March 2011. Most of the key range states were represented by both a Governmental and NGO body. A total of 36 individuals attended some of the workshop. Feedback from delegates was extremely positive, and the workshop was deemed a huge success. The key focus was to agree revisions to the Action Plan in light of new information from satellite tagging. Also priority actions were identified and agreed for all the key range states. For the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group, a Chairman (Dr Mohammed Shobrak) and co-ordinator (Dr Rob Sheldon) were elected, and terms of reference agreed. A national reporting mechanism was also agreed by attendees that will enable the working group co-ordinator to maintain an overview of conservation activities and track delivery of the	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2009 - March 2011	Actions required/planned for next period
		Species Action Plan. In addition to the above planned workshop, an additional workshop was held in Syria as part of the AEWA Implementation Review Process. This workshop was attended by more than 50 Syrian delegates from a variety of Government Agencies, NGOs and local communities.	
Activity 6.3 Publish International Species Action Plan		The wealth of new information provided through the satellite tagging work in 2010 led us to postpone the formal adoption of the AEWA Species Action Plan until the end of this current project. Although the plan was largely agreed and written as an output of the first Darwin project, it was appropriate to delay officially adopting the plan until the end of this current project. The draft plan has continued to be used despite it not being adopted. At the end of project workshop the revisions were agreed by all range states. The revised AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Species Action Plan has been submitted for formal consultation with AEWA range states and will be presented to the Meeting of the Parties in November 2011.	
Activity 6.4 Publish National Species Action Plans		Due to the delay in the International Species Action Plan, as described in Activity 6.3, National SAPs have not yet progressed. However, these remain key activities in the International Species Action Plan which range states have agreed. Kazakhstan will hold a national working group meeting and initiate the development of a national species action plan in January 2012.	

Annex 2 Project's final logframe, including criteria and indicators

As above – although there were some amendments to the project, these are captured within the original project log-frame.

Annex 3 Project contribution to Articles under the CBD

Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Article No./Title	Project %	Article Description
6. General Measures for Conservation & Sustainable Use	10	Develop national strategies that integrate conservation and sustainable use.
7. Identification and Monitoring	50	Identify and monitor components of biological diversity, particularly those requiring urgent conservation; identify processes and activities that have adverse effects; maintain and organise relevant data.
8. In-situ Conservation		Establish systems of protected areas with guidelines for selection and management; regulate biological resources, promote protection of habitats; manage areas adjacent to protected areas; restore degraded ecosystems and recovery of threatened species; control risks associated with organisms modified by biotechnology; control spread of alien species; ensure compatibility between sustainable use of resources and their conservation; protect traditional lifestyles and knowledge on biological resources.
9. Ex-situ Conservation		Adopt ex-situ measures to conserve and research components of biological diversity, preferably in country of origin; facilitate recovery of threatened species; regulate and manage collection of biological resources.
10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity		Integrate conservation and sustainable use in national decisions; protect sustainable customary uses; support local populations to implement remedial actions; encourage co-operation between governments and the private sector.
11. Incentive Measures		Establish economically and socially sound incentives to conserve and promote sustainable use of biological diversity.
12. Research and Training	15	Establish programmes for scientific and technical education in identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity components; promote research contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries (in accordance with SBSTTA recommendations).
13. Public Education and Awareness	15	Promote understanding of the importance of measures to conserve biological diversity and propagate these measures through the media; cooperate with other states and organisations in developing awareness programmes.
14. Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts		Introduce EIAs of appropriate projects and allow public participation; take into account environmental consequences of policies; exchange information on impacts beyond State boundaries and work to reduce hazards; promote emergency responses to hazards; examine mechanisms for re-dress of international damage.
15. Access to Genetic Resources		Whilst governments control access to their genetic resources they should also facilitate access of environmentally sound uses on mutually agreed terms; scientific research based on a country's genetic resources should ensure sharing in a fair and equitable way of results and benefits.

Article No./Title	Project %	Article Description
16. Access to and Transfer of Technology		Countries shall ensure access to technologies relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity under fair and most favourable terms to the source countries (subject to patents and intellectual property rights) and ensure the private sector facilitates such assess and joint development of technologies.
17. Exchange of Information		Countries shall facilitate information exchange and repatriation including technical scientific and socio-economic research, information on training and surveying programmes and local knowledge
19. Bio-safety Protocol		Countries shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities and to ensure all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis, especially where they provide the genetic resources for such research.
Other Contribution	10	Smaller contributions (eg of 5%) or less should be summed and included here.
Total %	100%	

Annex 4 Standard Measures

Code	Description	Totals (plus additional detail as required)
Training Measures		
1a	Number of people to submit PhD thesis	
1b	Number of PhD qualifications obtained	
2	Number of Masters qualifications obtained	1: Maxim Koshkin, although not directly linked to this project.
3	Number of other qualifications obtained	
4a	Number of undergraduate students receiving training	6 undergraduates trained during fieldwork in Kazakhstan. 3 undergraduates in Russia during Stavrapol surveys
4b	Number of training weeks provided to undergraduate students	Minimum of 30 weeks during fieldwork in Kazakhstan. 6 weeks in Russia during Stavrapol surveys
4c	Number of postgraduate students receiving training (not 1-3 above)	1: Ruslan Urazliev received experiential training in Kazakhstan by Rob Sheldon, Maxim Koshkin and Johannes Kamp
4d	Number of training weeks for postgraduate students	Minimum of 8 weeks.
5	Number of people receiving other forms of long-term (>1yr) training not leading to formal qualification(ie not categories 1-4 above)	
6a	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (ie not categories 1-5 above)	2: trainee surveyors in Iraq (via experienced Nature Iraq survey team) 2: Ahmad Aidek and Nabegh Ghazal Asswad in Syria (via RSPB sabbatical support in 2010 &11) 1: Jayendra Lakhmapurkar (via RSPB sabbatical support in 2010 &11) 18: undergraduate students attending course in Kazakhstan, April 2009 20: undergraduate students attending summer camp in Kazakhstan, August 2009
6b	Number of training weeks not leading to formal qualification	50 weeks
7	Number of types of training materials produced for use by host country(s)	
Research Measures		
8	Number of weeks spent by UK project staff on project work in host country(s)	10 weeks in Kazakhstan (Rob Sheldon & Johannes 2 weeks in Russia (Rob Sheldon) 1 week in Syria (Rob Sheldon)

Code	Description	Totals (plus additional detail as required)
		15 weeks in Syria (RSPB sabbatical staff) 8 weeks in India (RSPB sabbatical staff)
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (s)	1: AEWA Species Action Plan delayed and updated. 1:AEWA Implementation Review Process report prepared for Syrian Government.
10	Number of formal documents produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording.	
11a	Number of papers published or accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals	1: Historic breeding of Sociable Lapwing in Chinese Birds. Analyses underway will result in two further papers.
11b	Number of papers published or accepted for publication elsewhere	2: one paper produced as proceedings for BOU migration conference (publication imminent). One paper by Johannes Kamp in Der Falke.
12a	Number of computer-based databases established (containing species/generic information) and handed over to host country	1: All the data is currently being standardised and will be handed over to ACBK in Kazakhstan
12b	Number of computer-based databases enhanced (containing species/genetic information) and handed over to host country	1: The sightings database is regularly updated and shared with ACBK in Kazakhstan
13a	Number of species reference collections established and handed over to host country(s)	
13b	Number of species reference collections enhanced and handed over to host country(s)	
Dissemination Measures		
14a	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work	2: Workshop held as part of AEWA IRP in spring 2010. End of project conference in Syria.
14b	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	2: Maxim Koshkin And Ruslan Urazliev presented at student conference on conservation science, Cambridge 1: Johannes Kamp presented at annual conference of the German Ornithologists Union 1: Rob Sheldon presented at BOU conference in April 2011
15a	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	1 press release in Syria associated with the end of project workshop.
15b	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	Note – the use of press releases was replaced by regular postings on the
15c	Number of national press releases or publicity	

Code	Description	Totals (plus additional detail as required)
	articles in UK	Amazing Journey web-site
15d	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in UK	
16a	Number of issues of newsletters produced in the host country(s)	
16b	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(s)	
16c	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	
17a	Number of dissemination networks established	1: The Sociable Lapwing International Working Group was officially established
17b	Number of dissemination networks enhanced or extended	
18a	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(s)	Note – the Amazing Journey web-site has been used as the main dissemination tool since the start of this project.
18b	Number of national TV programme/features in the UK	
18c	Number of local TV programme/features in host country	
18d	Number of local TV programme features in the UK	
19a	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(s)	
19b	Number of national radio interviews/features in the UK	
19c	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country (s)	
19d	Number of local radio interviews/features in the UK	
Physical Measures		
20	Estimated value (£s) of physical assets handed over to host country(s)	
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisation established	
22	Number of permanent field plots established	
23	Value of additional resources raised for project	Approximately £50,000 of new funding has been provided by Swarovski Optik through Birdlife's Preventing Extinctions Programme and the Amazing Journey web-site.

Annex 5 Publications

Type * (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)
Journal, Chinese Birds	Kamp et al (2010). Historic breeding of Sociable Lapwing in Xinjiang
Magazine, Der Falke	Kamp (2011). Zug des Steppenkiebitzes (in German)
Book chapter	Donald et al. (2010). Facing Extinction: the world's rarest birds and the race to save them. ISBN 978-0-7136-7021-9

Annex 6 Darwin Contacts

Ref No	EIDPO035
Project Title	Tracking the Sociable Lapwing: conservation beyond the breeding grounds
UK Leader Details	
Name	Dr Rob Sheldon
Role within Darwin Project	Project Leader and overall co-ordinator
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Role within Darwin Project	Project co-ordinator in Kazakhstan
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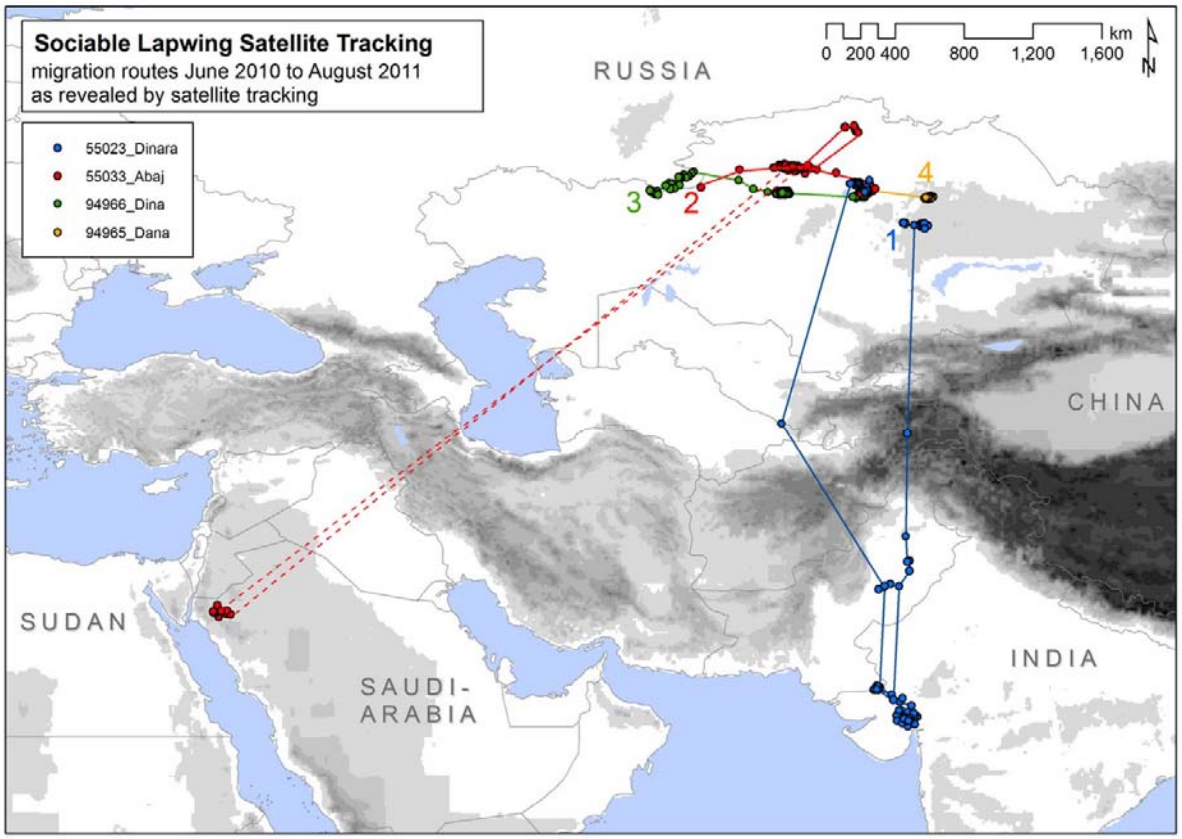
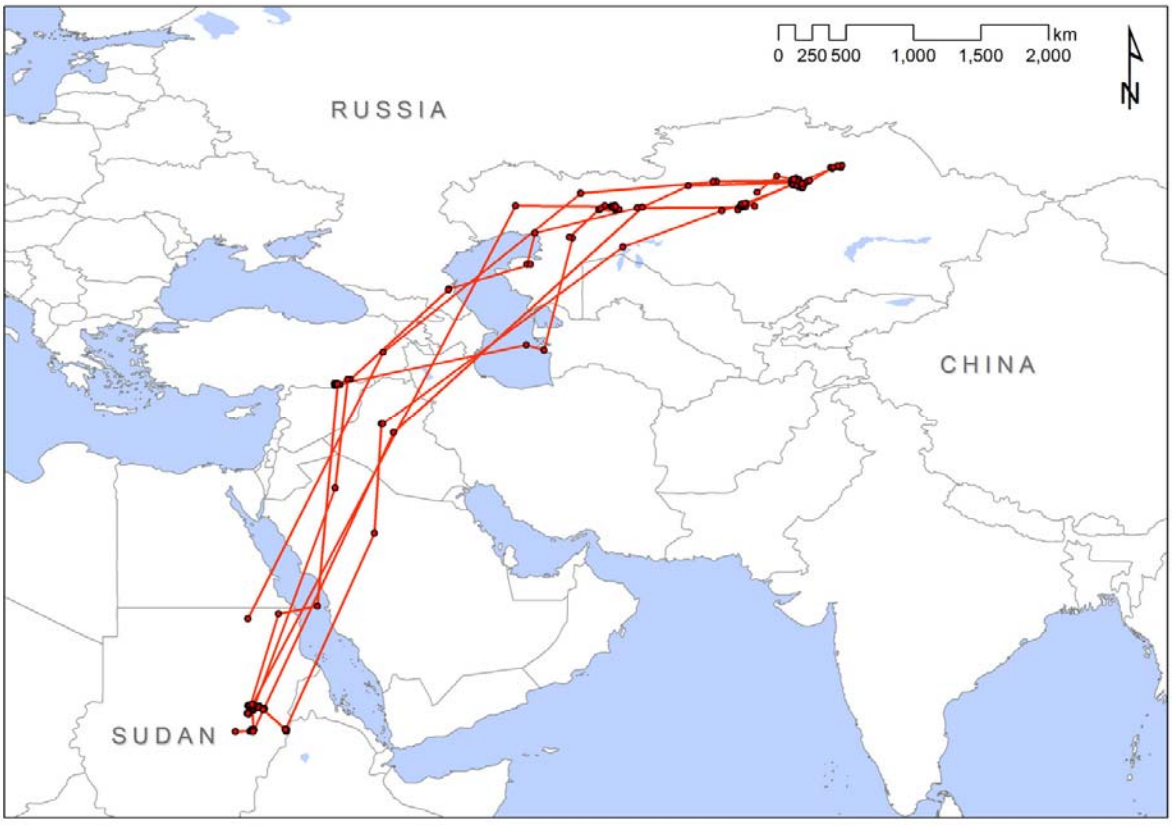
Fax	
Email	

Annex 7

Selected satellite tracks from birds tagged in 2010.



Satellite data from tag 21185 over a four year period.



Annex 8

AEWA Implementation Review Process, Terms of Reference for the Mission

AEWA Implementation Review Process (IRP)

On-the-spot assessment mission

Sociable Lapwing conservation in Syria

Terms of Reference

Background

The Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) is a globally threatened species (IUCN Red List Category: Critically Endangered (CR)) and is listed on the AEWA Table 1 in Column A, categories 1a, b, c and 2. Currently its population is estimated at ca. 5,600 pairs. Currently the species breeds largely in Northern Kazakhstan and to a much lesser extent in Southern Russia. The Sociable Lapwing population migrates on two separate flyways. The Eastern flyway, which is not well studied, leads to India and Pakistan, where annually small flocks are being recorded. The main part of the population follows the Western flyway leading to NE Africa (Sudan). A number of stop over sites have been identified, some of which are located in the Middle East.

An expedition in February-March 2007 discovered in NE Syria a large stopover site with a total ca. 2,000 Sociable Lapwings. It was unfortunately also found out that the Sociable Lapwing in Syria is being targeted by hunters and falconers. In the autumn of 2007 in Turkey, close to the border with Syria, the largest flock of Sociable Lapwings for over hundred years was observed (ca. 3,200 birds). These new discoveries proved that a large proportion of the world population passes through and stages twice a year in the Middle East, therefore being exposed to the impact of hunting and other adverse factors in the region.

The AEWA Single Species Action Plan for the Sociable Lapwing of 2002/2004 is now being revised and a workshop with attendees from the key Range States took place in March 2009. The hunting pressure in the Middle East, particularly Syria, was identified by the workshop participants as currently the most serious threat to the global population of the Sociable Lapwing.

Current Situation

According to the IRP information sheet submitted by the BirdLife International Middle East Secretariat the following sites in Syria hold significant numbers of Sociable Lapwings: Eiwa, Al Aumair, Ar Ruweira Rangeland Reserve (Ain Assafra), Al Fedha (Al Cholla), Al Fedha, Tall as Samin Ar Ruweira and Al Aumair. All these

sites are situated in the NE part of the country and belong to Ar Raqqa / Al Hassakeh Governorates.

Already in the spring of 2007, when large congregations in NE Syria were discovered for first time, a serious threat by a foreign hunting (falconry) party was reported. Local hunters were also visiting the area and targeting Sociable Lapwings.

In the spring of 2009 several hunting incidents were reported indicating massive hunting of Sociable Lapwings. Exact numbers of hunted birds remained unclear, but at least 150 birds were reported killed at a single site.

A number of Syrian state institutions and non-governmental organizations have been tackling the hunting threat. The former Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, now Ministry of State for Environment Affairs (National AEWA Focal Point), the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (in charge of the enforcement of hunting legislation), the General Commission for Al Badia Management and Development (GCAMD, previously a department under the agricultural ministry), and the Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW) have played roles in alleviating the hunting impact on the Sociable Lapwing population. These national stakeholders have been supported by BirdLife International, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Ornithological Society of the Middle East.

Despite the efforts of national Syrian institutions and organizations as well as their foreign partners and supporters the control of hunting of Sociable Lapwings in NE parts of the country remains a significant challenge to address, given the nature of the area being vast and remote.

On the basis of an advice from the AEWA Technical Committee and invoking Resolution 4.6 the AEWA Standing Committee decided on opening an IRP case to assist the Syrian government in further tackling and preventing the threat to the Sociable Lapwing at stopover sites in the country. On 1 October 2009 the AEWA Executive Secretary sent a letter on behalf of the AEWA Standing Committee to H.E. Dr. Kawkab Dayeh, Syrian State Minister for Environment Affairs requesting further information on this case, especially on the planning and actions being taken to resolve this problematic issue, as well as offering to send an IRP mission in order to assess the issue on the ground and to recommend solutions to the Syrian government.

During a visit to Damascus in the end of October 2009 the AEWA Technical Officer undertook consultations with the representative of the Ministry of State for Environment Affairs Dr. Akram Eissa Darwich, Director of Biodiversity and Protected Areas. On 15 December 2009 at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat was received a response from H.E. Dr. Kawkab Dayeh, the Syrian Minister of State for Environment Affairs informing on the acceptance of the suggested AEWA IRP mission on the preliminary proposed dates of 23-28 February 2010.

Objectives of the AEWA IRP mission

The principal objectives of the AEWA IRP mission to Syria are:

- to assess the threats to the conservation of the Sociable Lapwing and its habitats in Syria arising from hunting and other adverse factors;
- to review and assess legislative and other measures already in place to tackle hunting pressure and other impacts;
- to review and assess monitoring activities concerning the species and its habitats already in place;
- to investigate options for strengthening the effectiveness of the measures in order to eliminate threats to the Sociable Lapwing and its habitats;
- to determine where monitoring is in need of further enhancement and suggest possible ways of doing so;
- to make recommendations to the Government of Syria, the AEWA Standing Committee and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat on the conservation measures that should be taken to safeguard the Sociable Lapwing and its habitats in Syria (these recommendations shall be also included in the revised AEWA Single Species Action Plan for the Sociable Lapwing which is currently being developed).

Provisional dates and itinerary

23-28 February 2010

Day 1 (23 Feb)	Arrival in Damascus; meeting of the IRP mission team
Day 2 (24 Feb)	Meetings in Damascus with the Ministry of State for Environment Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and the Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife
Day 3 (25 Feb)	Travel to Raqqa (or Deir ez Zor) (N Syria); stop in Palmyra for meeting the General Commission for Al Badia Management and Development
Day 4 (26 Feb)	Field visit to the sites of concentration of Sociable Lapwings
Day 5 (27 Feb)	Meeting with local stakeholders, such as provincial governors, hunters and local communities around Sociable Lapwing staging areas
Day 6 (28 Feb)	Travel back to Damascus, meeting of the IRP mission team and departure from Damascus

Provisional IRP mission team

Foreign experts

- International consultant
- UNEP/AEWA Secretariat
- BirdLife International Middle East Secretariat
- International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) (tbc)
- RSPB/International Sociable Lapwing Working Group (tbc)

National representatives

- Ministry of State for Environment Affairs (*to act as main focal point for the foreign expert team and to be in charge of the overall organization and coordination of the logistics locally*)
- General Commission for Al Badia Management and Development
- Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (tbc)
- Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife (tbc)

Annex 9

Photos from the AEWA Implementation Review Process, Syria 2010.

Above: The mission team discusses conservation of Sociable Lapwings in Syria with the General Director of the General Commission for Al Badia Management & Development and the Head of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Directorate of the Ministry of State for Environment Affairs. Palmyra, 25 February 2010.

Above: Sheikh Dham Al G'a shiesh of the El Enize Tribe, in conversation with Sergey Dereliev and Sharif Jbour, Al Ghazli, 28 February 2010

Annex 10

Scientific article produced as part of Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative project – illustrating the strong links and legacy of the Sociable Lapwing Darwin projects

Annex 11

Project report from Torghay expedition, part funded by the Darwin project

The importance of the Torghay river valley, Altyn Dala region, Kazakhstan as stopover site for migrating Sociable Lapwings

Expedition report

JOHANNES KAMP [1] · ALEXEI TIMOSHENKO[2] · TIMUR ISKAKOV[3] · KHANAT BATYRKHANULY[2]

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Annex 12

A series of photographs provided by Nature Iraq to illustrate working with local communities.

Fieldworks during the Sociable Lapwing surveys

Locals' and farmers' reporting was one of the sources of gaining the information

Asking locals helped the field team and reduced time and efforts!

Educational activities and security issues during the fieldworks

Annex 13

Information material produced by GES, India

દેખાવ

સોશીએબલ લેપવીંગ (મળતાવડી ટીટોડી) તેના જેવી દેખાતી બીજી પ્રજાતિઓથી કેટલીક લાક્ષણિકતાઓ જેમ કે કાળુ માથુ (ટોપી), આંખોની ઉપર સફેદ પટ્ટી અને આંખોને અડીને કાળી પટ્ટી વગેરેના લીધે અલગ તરી આવે છે.૨૭ થી ૩૦સે.મી લંબાઈ ધરાવતો પુખ્ત નર ભુખરા રંગનો હોય છે. ઉડતીવખતે પાંખોના વિશિષ્ટ કાળા અને સફેદ પટ્ટાથી તેમને તરત ઓળખી શકાય છે.

ઉડતી વખતે દેખાતા કાળા અને સફેદ પટ્ટા

જમીન પર આરામ કરતી વખતે

ભારતીય કર્ઝર ખેતીની પડતર જમીનમાં

લાલ ચાંચ વાળી ટીટોડી, મુખ્ય ભારતીય પ્રજાતિ

પીળા ચાંચ વાળી ટીટોડી, બીજી સ્થાનિક પ્રજાતિ

ખેતીની પડતર જમીન

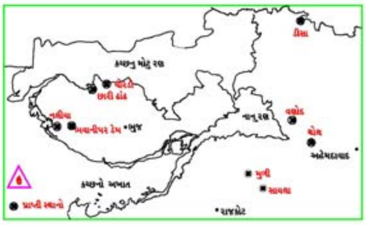
ઘાસના મેદાનો

જલ પ્લાવીત વિસ્તારો

સાથી પ્રજાતિઓ

ક્રીમ કલરનું કર્ઝર બન્નીમાં જોવા મળે છે

શિયાળુ આવાસો



આ શિયાળુ મહેમાન (યાયાવર) પક્ષી કચ્છ, ઉતર ગુજરાત અને સૌરાષ્ટ્રના પ્રાકૃતિક ઘાસના મેદાનો, ગોચર જમીન, ખેતીની પડતર જમીન, ખેતરો અને તળાવોમાં જોવા મળી શકે છે. તે મુખ્યત્વે જીવજંતુઓ ઉપર નભે છે. અને આમ પાકને નુકશાન પહોંચાડતા જંતુઓની સંખ્યા પર કાબુ રાખે છે.

મળતાવડી ટીટોડી

એક અતિ ભયગ્રસ્ત પ્રજાતિ

અંગ્રેજી– સોશીએબલ લેપવીંગ
વૈજ્ઞાનિક નામ– વેનેલસ ગ્રીગેરીયસ (પલાસ)

આ સુંદર અને મહત્વના યાયાવર પક્ષીના સંરક્ષણમાં સહયોગ કરો

Nature's voice
આર.એસ.પી.બી.
કુદરતનો સાદ

SWAROVSKI OPTIK

DARWIN INITIATIVE

ગુજરાત ઈકોલોજી સોસાયટી
૩–સીનર્જી હાઉસ,સુભાનપુરા,વડોદરા–૩૯૦૦૨૩
ફોનઃ(૦૨૬૫) ૨૨૮૩૩૨૯, ૨૨૩૩૪૧ ફેક્સઃ (૦૨૬૫) ૨૨૮૪૬૬૪
ઈમેલઃ info@gesindia.org ,વેબસાઈટ:www.gesindia.org

સ્થળાંતર

તે મધ્ય એશિયા (મુખ્યત્વે કઝાખસ્તાન) માં પ્રજનન કરે છે. અને ઉતર પશ્ચિમ ભારત અને ઉતર પૂર્વ આફ્રિકામાં શિયાળો ગાળવા આવે છે.

મુખ્યત્વે ૧૦ થી ૧૫ ના નાના–નાના સમુહોમાં સ્થળાંતર કરે છે. ક્યારેક ૧૦૦ જેટલી સંખ્યામાંપણ સમુહોમાં સ્થળાંતર કરે છે. તે ઓક્ટોબર નવેમ્બરમાં આવે છે. અને માર્ચ એપ્રિલ દરમ્યાન શિયાળુ આવાસો છોડીને પાછા જાય છે.

સંરક્ષણ

ફક્ત ૩૫૦૦ ની વૈશ્વિક વસ્તી ધરાવતી આ એક અતિ ભયગ્રસ્ત પ્રજાતિ છે.

જેટલુ સિંહોનું ગીરમાં મહત્વ છે તેટલુંજ સોશીએબલ લેપવીંગનુ સ્ટેપી અભયારણ્યમાં (કઝાખસ્તાન) મહત્વ છે. તેનું સરંક્ષણ પ્રજનન વિસ્તારો અને શિયાળુ આવાસો પર આધારિત છે.

સને ૨૦૦૫થી લંડન સ્થિત સંસ્થા રોયલ સોસાયટી ફોર પ્રોટેકશન ઓફ બર્ડઝ(આર.એસ.પી.બી.) તેના સરંક્ષણમાં કાર્યરત છે. ગુજરાત ઈકોલોજી સોસાયટીએ ગુજરાત સ્થિત શિયાળુ આવાસોમાંઆ પક્ષીનો સને ૨૦૦૫–૦૬ અને ૨૦૦૯–૧૦ માંઅભ્યાસ કરેલ છે. અને અનુક્રમે ૨૦ અને ૫૨ પક્ષીઓ નોંધ્યા છે.

સરક્ષણ જરૂરિયાત

- દર વર્ષે તેના આવાસો અને સ્થળાંતરના સર્વે–અભ્યાસ કરવો
- ચોમાસુ પાક અને શિયાળુ પાક વચ્ચે એક થી બે મહીનાનું અંતર રાખી ખેતરોમાં આવાસ પુરો પાડવો
- ઘાસના મેદાનોમાં ઢોરો દ્વારા ચારણથી ઘાસની ઉંચાઈ ઓછી રાખવી જેથી તેને અનુકુળ આવાસ પુરો પાડી શકાય

Annex 14

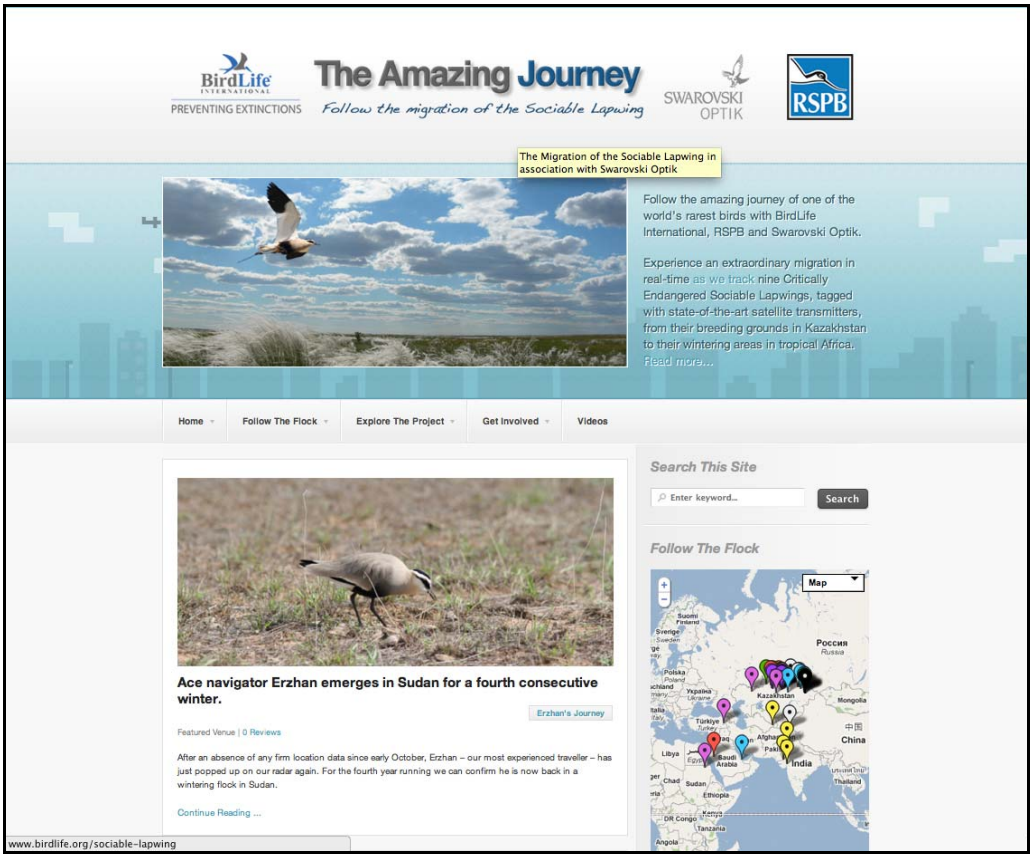
Information material produced in Arabic for use in Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia

Annex 15

Poster distributed by Doğa Derneği for use in Turkey

Annex 16

Home page of The Amazing Journey web-site



Example page from Amazing Journey web-site