



Migrant Landbird Study Group
Promoting collaborative research for migratory landbirds across flyways

Stichting Palearctisch Trekvogelonderzoek-MLSG

Migrant Landbird Study Group (MLSG)

ANBI Policy Plan

Period: 01-01-2021 to 31-12-2022





1. Introduction

This Policy Plan covers the two year period 01-01-2021 to 31-12-2022 and consists of 1. Introduction, 2. Vision and objectives (including the Articles of Association as far as ANBI rules and regulations are concerned), 3. Activities of Stichting Palearctisch Trekvogelonderzoek-MLSG (hereinafter: the Migrant Landbird Study Group), and 4. Finances. The Migrant Landbird Study Group board and Executive Committee is aware of the fact that, in order to remain on the ANBI register, the Migrant Landbird Study Group has to meet with the requirements. The Migrant Landbird Study Group board has ensured that it will do so.

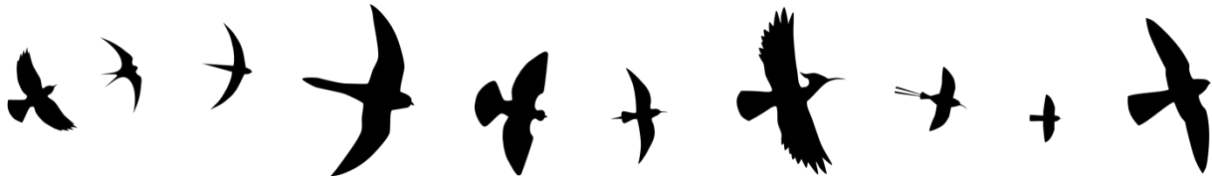


2. Vision and Objectives

The foundation of the Migrant Landbird Study Group was conceived under the Africa-Eurasia Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The mission of the Migrant Landbird Study Group is to serve as an independent group to streamline research efforts that will inform conservation action for migrant landbirds in the Africa-Eurasia flyway within a global conservation context. The Migrant Landbird Study Group will promote and encourage co-operation between researchers, both amateurs and professionals, and enthuse a broader public through an online platform, and by the organisation of meetings, e-newsletters, co-operative projects, and any other legal means.

Statutory Framework

The Migrant Landbird Study Group was founded in 2014, with articles of association being incorporated at 25 February 2015. The articles of association of the Migrant Landbird Study Group, which have been prepared by Van Putten Van Apeldoorn notarissen in Wageningen, are, both on statutory object and on financing and assets, very clear and provided below (Dutch text prevails over the English translation and is hence presented first, then the English translation is given).



In Dutch:

Artikel 3 Doel

3.1 De stichting heeft ten doel: Het bevorderen van het onderzoek naar en het bevorderen van de bescherming van palearctische trekvogels en alles wat daarmee in de ruimste zin van het woord verband houdt.

3.2 De stichting tracht dit doel te bereiken door:

- het uitwisselen tussen amateurornithologen en professionele ornithologen van kennis, methoden en materialen inzake trekvogelonderzoek;
- het initiëren en versterken van samenwerkingsverbanden tussen de hiervoor genoemde groepen ornithologen;
- het onderhouden van contacten met overheden en relevante organisaties en personen;

Het geven van voorlichting omtrent doel en werkwijze van de stichting;

- Het verwerven van fondsen om te kunnen komen tot verwezenlijking van het doel van de stichting, en het beheren van die fondsen;
- Al hetgeen te doen dat met een en ander rechtstreeks of zijdelings verband houdt of daartoe bevorderlijk kan zijn, een en ander in de ruimste zin van het woord.

3.3. De stichting beoogt niet het maken van winst.

3.4 De stichting beoogt te zijn een algemeen nut beogende instelling als bedoeld in artikel 5b van de Algemene wet inzake rijksbelastingen (Awr) en beoogt als zodanig gerangschikt te zijn door de Nederlandse Belastingdienst.

Artikel 4. Geldmiddelen

4.1. De geldmiddelen van de stichting kunnen bestaan uit:

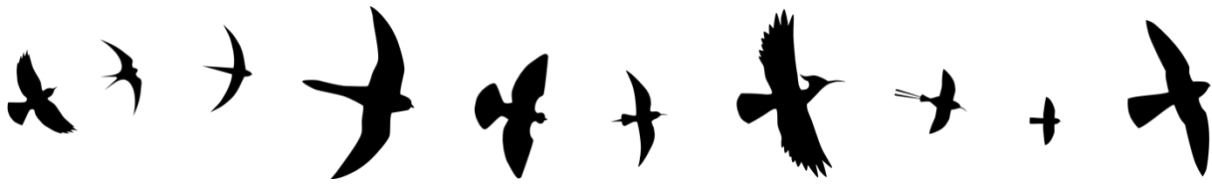
- bijdragen van hen, die met het doel van de stichting sympathiseren;
- bijdragen van hen in wier belang de stichting werkzaam is;
- subsidies en donaties;
- schenkingen, erfstellingen en legaten;
- alle andere baten.

4.2. Nalatenschappen worden door de stichting slechts aanvaard onder het voorrecht van boedelbeschrijving.

4.3. De stichting houdt niet meer vermogen aan dan redelijkerwijs nodig is voor de continuïteit van de voorziene werkzaamheden ten behoeve van haar doelstelling.

Onder vermogen dat nodig is voor de continuïteit van de voorziene werkzaamheden worden begrepen:

- a. vermogen of bestanddelen daarvan die krachtens uiterste wilsbeschikking of schenking door de stichting zijn verkregen, en die op grond van aan die uiterste wilsbeschikking of schenking verbonden voorwaarden, al dan niet in reële termen, in stand moeten worden gehouden;
- b. vermogensbestanddelen voor zover de instandhouding daarvan voortvloeit uit de doelstelling van de stichting; en
- c. activa en voor de voorziene aanschaf van activa aangehouden vermogensbestanddelen, voor zover een instelling die activa redelijkerwijs nodig heeft ten behoeve van de doelstelling van de stichting.



English translation

Article 3. Objectives

3.1 *The objectives of the foundation are: To promote research on and promote protection of palearctische migratory birds and all that is connected therewith as interpreted in the broadest sense.*

3.2 *The foundation aims to pursue its objectives by:*

Exchanging knowledge, methods and materials regarding migratory bird research between amateur ornithologists and professional ornithologists;

initiate ad strengthen cooperation between above mentioned groups of ornithologists

Maintaining contact with governments and relevant organisations and persons;;

Provide information about the objectives and working method of the foundation

raising funds for the purpose of reaching the objectives of the Foundation, ad managing those funds;

To do everything what is in direct or indirect relation with the research or can help in the broadest sense of the word.

3.3 *Making a profit is not part of the objectives of the Foundation*

3.4 *The Foundation aims to be a public benefit institution (algemeen nut beogende instelling) as referred to in article 5b of the Dutch General Act on National Taxes (Algemene wet inzake rijksbelastingen) and aims to be ranked as such by the Dutch tax authorities.*

Article 4 Assets

4.1 *The assets of the foundation can include:*

- contributions of those, sympathising with the objectives of the foundation

- contributions of those in whose interest the foundation works

- subsidies and donations;

- bestowal, testamentary dispositions and bequests;

- all other acquisitions and benefits.

4.2 *The Foundation may only accept testamentary dispositions with the benefit of inventory.*

4.3 *The Foundation will not retain more assets than is reasonably necessary for the continuity of the intended work in pursuit of the objectives. Assets considered necessary for the continuity of the intended work are:*

a. assets or components thereof obtained by the foundation by means of disposition of property upon death or donations, to be carried out in accordance with conditions set therein, whether or not in real terms.

b. assets to the extent that preservation result from and contribute to the objectives of the foundation; and

c. assets and retained assets for anticipated acquisition of assets, to the extent reasonably needed in pursuit of the objectives of the institution.



3. Activities

The Migrant Landbird Study Group (MLSG) is an independent and international network of professionals and amateurs involved in the research, monitoring and conservation of migratory landbird species. Many migrants breeding in Europe and wintering in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia are declining. Conservation of migrant birds cannot be achieved by individuals, organisations or governments working in isolation.

The objective of the MLSG is to serve as an independent group that facilitates networking and collaboration among researchers studying migrant landbirds, thereby streamlining research efforts that will inform conservation policy for migratory landbirds in Europe, Africa and Asia.

The Migrant Landbird Study Group core activities are:

1. Maintaining a website that works as a networking portal for researchers studying migrant landbirds to get in contact and collaborate with other researchers and discover information that will help them to achieve their research objectives;
2. Organizing online and offline events such as conferences, networking events, webinars and workshops on the topic of bird migration and conservation, to promote exchange of information on migrant landbirds and their biology;
3. Providing travel grants for participation to international conferences to early career researchers, to promote scientific capacity building throughout the flyway.

COVID drastically impacted the approach of the Migrant Landbird Study Group to achieve its objectives and carry out activities. Due to the impossibility to carry out activities off line, the focus for 2021 will be on online events, and meanwhile taking the opportunity to reorganize and simplify the website to provide a more accessible networking platform with an open access, free-of-charge membership structure. This also required reorganizing the finances so that the MLSG can run at a simpler level focusing on its core aim of facilitating scientific networking for migrant bird research. In 2022, activities are intended to be online and offline.



Webinar sessions – 3-5 times per year

In each Webinar session, 2-4 young and/or experienced ornithologists from across the flyway share their insights, questions and approaches on the topic of scientific migrant landbird research, conservation, networking across the flyway, policy for protection of migratory landbirds in Europe, Africa and Asia.

Re-organisation of the website

Because of the need for more online activities, and to improve accessibility and networking function of our platform by moving to an open access, free-of-charge membership, we plan a thorough reorganisation and simplification of the MLSG website structure.

Re-organisation finances

The switch to a free-of-charge membership structure also requests a reorganisation of the finances.

Organization of networking events at three international bird conferences

A) International Ornithological Conference (IOC), August 2022 (South Africa).

- Organize three symposia/round-the-table discussions on the topics of:
 - 1) ethical considerations in bird research
 - 2) annual cycle research and conservation implications
 - 3) state of the art overview of the worlds landbird flyways

B) European Ornithologists' Union conference (EOU), March 2022 (Germany).

- Organize a 2-day preconference networking symposium for ~ 50-100 people prior to the conference. Activities include 'research pitches', overview seminars, workshops, topical discussion sessions.

C) Pan-African Ornithological Conference (PAOC), November 2022 (Zimbabwe).

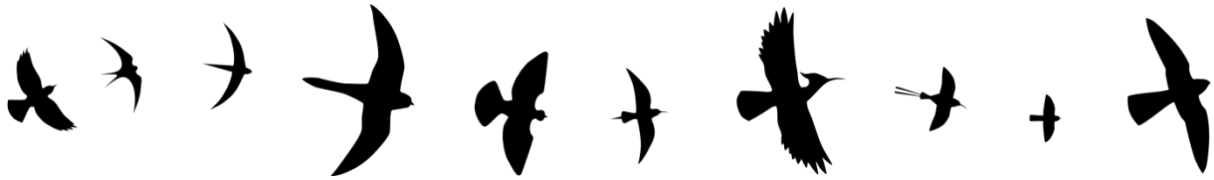
- 1-day programme on research, conservation and policy in landbird migrants.

Providing travel grants to enhance capacity building

Provide travel grants for 2-5 early career researchers working on the topic of migration, bird conservation or related, to allow visiting the PAOC conference. Particularly, young researchers from low-income countries are stimulated to request for such funding.

Planed activities for 2021-2022:

	2021	2022
Webinars		
Website reorganisation		
Finance reorganisation		
Conference IOC		
Conference EOU		
Conference PAOC		
Extending website network		
Travel grants		



4. Finance

The revenues of the Migrant Landbird Study Group are mainly generated by:

1. Donations; and
2. Income generated from organising conference events by conference fees and other income

The organization is funded through donation or conference and event activities, where a registration fee may be charged, or occasionally MLSG branded merchandise such as t-shirts are sold. Money raised is used to maintain and develop the website and its facility to promote networking, to organize conferences, networking events and webinars, and to provide travel grants for early career researchers to migration or related conferences.

The MLSG Foundation – 2-year model*

	2021	2022
Revenue		
Balance at 1-1	£ 4,597.98	£ 2,497.98
Donations	£ 0	£ 4,500
TOTAL REVENUE	£ 4,597.98	
Expenses		£ 6,997.98
Website reorganisation	£ 2,000	
Website maintenance		£ 300
Finance reorganisation	£ 100	
Travel grants		£ 5,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	£ 2,100	£ 5,800
Net Income	£ -2,100	£ 1,197.98

* budget estimates of Revenue and Expenses are all provided in UK pounds due a change of bank account from Dutch to UK bank account.