

Nonbreeding

Gaps

Capacity building

- research institutes should invest more in the long term and an infrastructure for research to continue rather than solely hiring field assistants
- fail to communicate our research and engage into collaborative work

Ground truthing

General

- we need to find what goes on: what are migrants feeding on, are there possibly differences between human modified and (more) natural habitats?
- need to also investigate local birds that migrate within Africa

Time period before departure

- identify the time window
- find out what triggers departure
- how do birds fuel up in a slowly degrading habitat?
- find out the different strategies species use in different habitats, also with respect to human modified and (more) natural habitats

Synergies

- Involve researchers from other fields such as sociology, economy and biologists from other fields such as entomologists, environmental scientists etc. to get a more holistic perspective
- Collaborate with people involved in the agricultural sector eg that are working on rice fields, palm oil plantations, cacao plantations etc. to quantify best practice with regards to migrants
- Invest in comparative studies that investigate disturbed versus natural habitat
- Make ground truthing more sustainable by involving local researchers
- Explore regional funding by local governments within Africa, especially on local migrating birds and explore the use of national governmental funding within Europe to invest into capacity building development within Africa
- Work together in building up research facilities in Africa
- Create connections in research between intra-continental and inter-continental birds

Actions MLSG

- Actively approach and involve Francophone countries as well as researchers from France working in Africa
- We need to have specific fund-raising project objectives, oneliners, and create such a 'wishlist' to look for funding more specifically

- Use the Friends of the Landbirds Action Plan (FLAP) as a mean to put out priority species, knowledge gaps and capacity needs

Migration

Gaps

- Lack of an overview of who is doing what and where
- Lack of understanding how different methods could be useful to study migration, eg radar and more specifically EMRAM project and use of harmonic radar
- Lack of understanding when it comes to mortality on migration
- Better understand causes of population change
- Ecology of migrating birds on the move
- Lack of understanding when it comes to intra-African migrants
- Need of results that can drive conservation action
- What do focal species need on migration?
- Does migration have an effect on population change and demography?
- Lack of information and sharing of unsuccessful projects and methods when it comes to tagging
- Lack of national contact points (eg NGOs) that can be contacted to work with within a country or could be asked for help remotely
- What are the resource requirements/use of migrant landbirds during migration?
- Lack of overview on potential funding resources

Synergies

- harmonise research objectives and species prioritisation for breeding, migration, non-breeding and holistic studies to give input for conservation action
- harmonise research focus so to avoid not to tag 'unknown' species for the sake of publication, but rather encourage complementary research
- exchange of information when it comes to the use of tags and what can be done right by best current practice and what could go wrong
- sharing of wishes when it comes to the development of new/lighter/smarter/... tags
- harmonise and summarise existing data (on tracking) across flyways to be better able to identify gaps
- work together as a community: the whole is bigger than the sum of the parts
- or efficient use of resources and time
- Link between monitoring ('soft' science) studies on many migrant bird species (including globally threatened species more detailed, in depth (experimental) studies at different stages during the annual cycle

Actions MLSG

- establish a portal so people can inform each other and exchange data and ideas
- share concepts for the development of landbird relevant COST funded research networks
- Facilitate collaboration and networking at different scales and in different countries

- Encourage commitment to share an overview of what research groups are doing
- Encourage use of Movebank
- Circulate a file in which people/institutes/... can indicate on which species they are working, where with whom and with which objectives. Additionally include a list of species with the question to identify possible model species with a brief motivation.
- Bring together reports from various ethical committee processes outlining current best practices when it comes to tagging
- Encourage analytical speed dating
- Information-sharing network will aid in filling the gaps in and avoidance of duplication in research effort and allow for funding to be acquired more effectively

Breeding

Gaps

- indicating and defining the scale of breeding studies; lack of collaboration and exchange of information between researchers/non-professionals working on the same species
- impact of different breeding strategies on migration and nonbreeding and vv
- understanding of the (potential) ecological mismatch

Synergies

Should mainly be focused on demographic studies, a comparative approach and on linking demography

- understanding of (density dependent) post-fledgling mortality, particularly between the breeding grounds and the first stopover site to understand drivers of mortality
- study impact of land-use patterns on population trends using remote sensing databases
- comparison studies on the edges of known breeding ranges and between populations within the breeding range
- meta analysis of published findings