

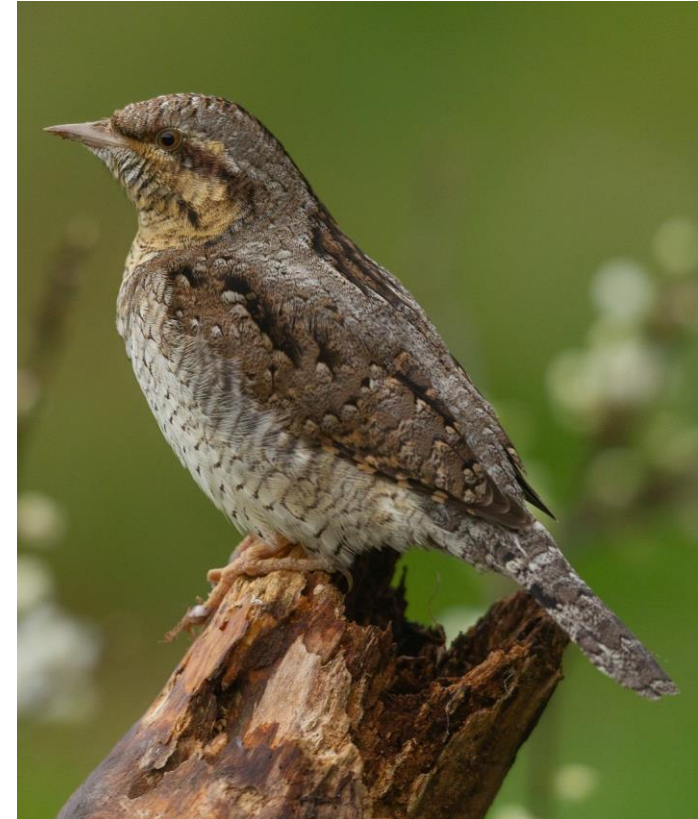


AFRICAN EURASIAN
MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS



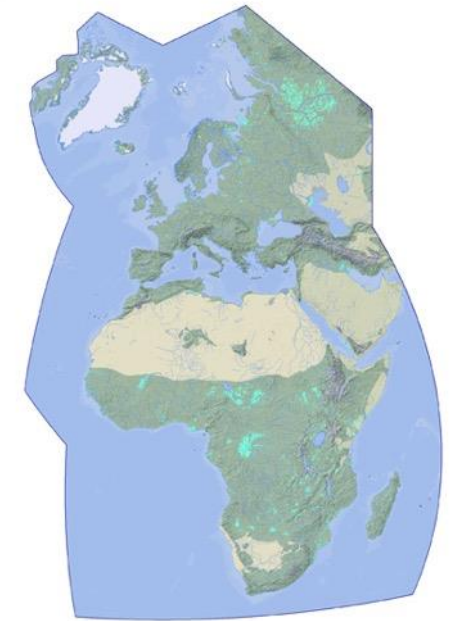
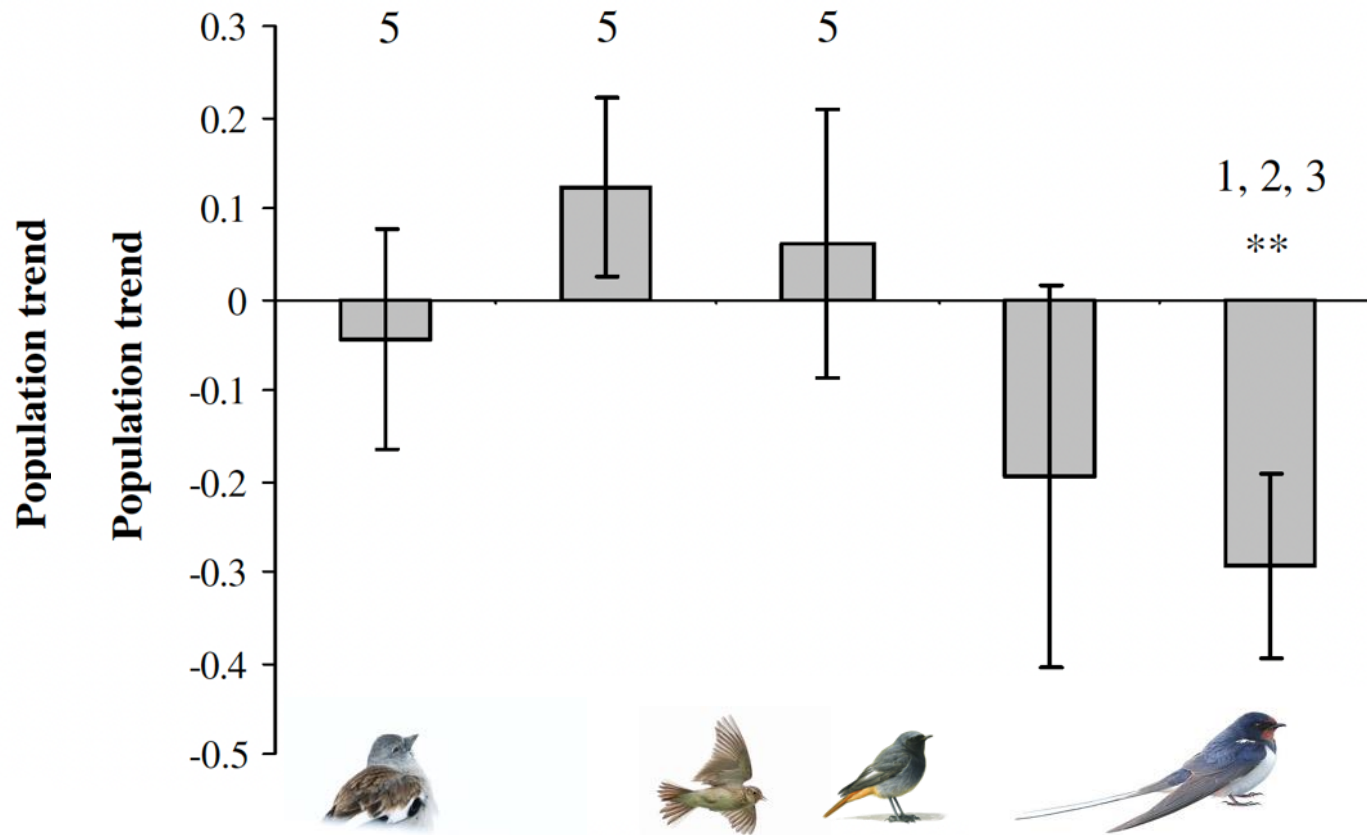
The updated Programme of Work of the African-Eurasian Landbirds Action Plan AEMLAP

Reto Spaar, Swiss Ornithological Institute



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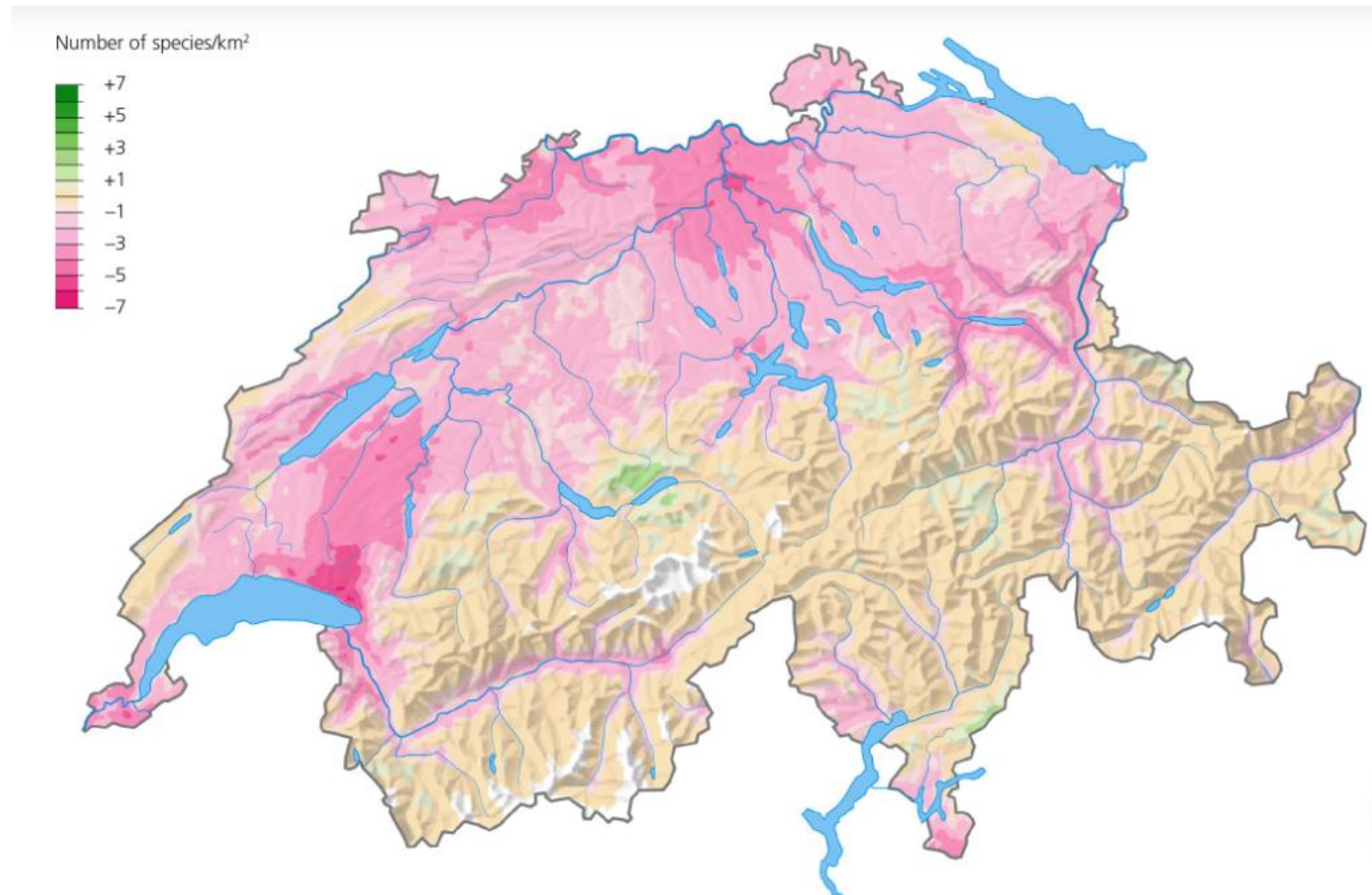
The decline of long-distance migrants



From left to right:
 Resident birds
 Partial migrants
 Migrants within Europe
 Migrants to North Africa or the Middle East
 Long-distance migrants to sub-Saharan Africa or Asia

(Data 1970-1990; Sanderson et al. 2006)

The decline of long-distance migrants



The change in distribution since 1993–1996 for long-distance migrants (30 species) is almost entirely negative at low and medium altitudes.



(Knaus et al. 2018)

Conditions continue to deteriorate in both the breeding and non-breeding seasons

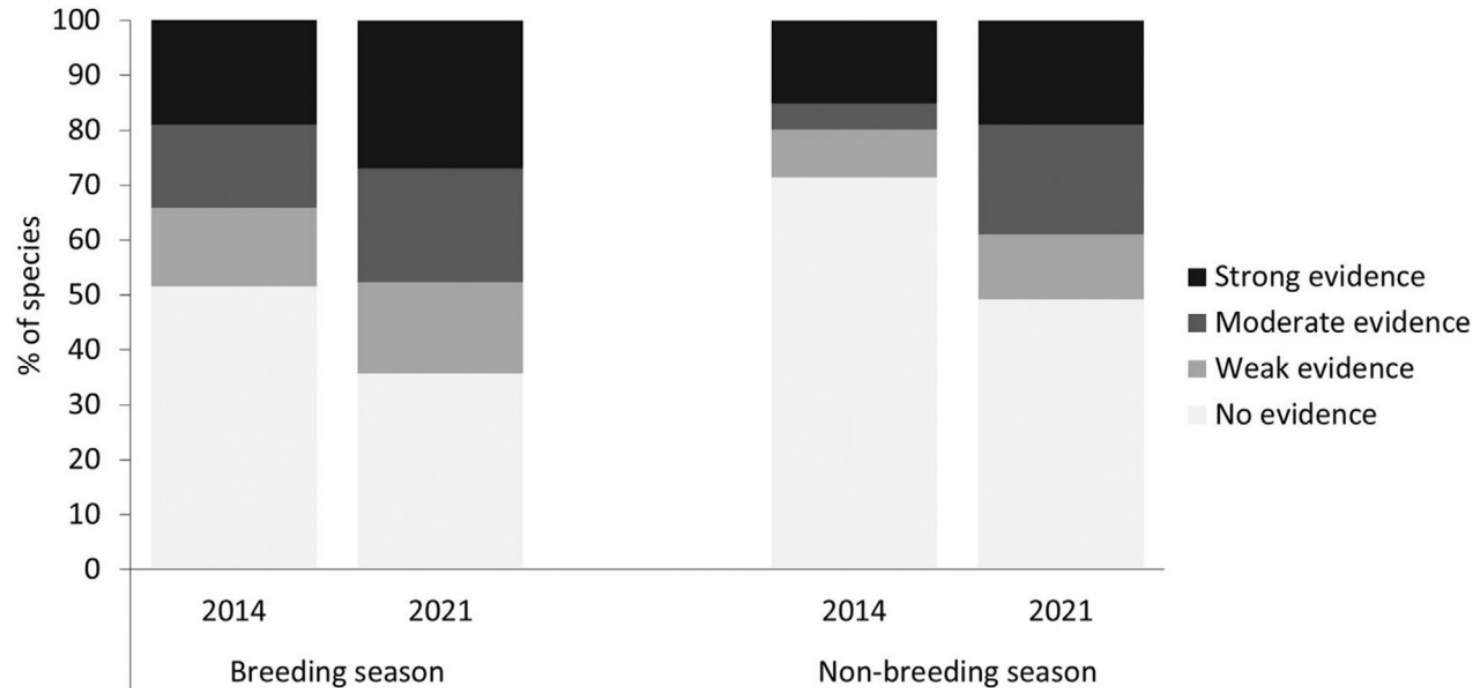


Figure 3. Summary of the extent of evidence available in 2014 and 2021 in relation to environmental factors likely to influence population trends of 126 Afro-Palaeartic migrant species during the breeding and non-breeding seasons. For each species, evidence from published studies catalogued in Table S1 was categorized as either ‘strong’ (a population-level effect), ‘moderate’ (effects on survival or breeding success) or ‘weak’ (an effect on habitat selection). The strongest level identified for each species in each season was assigned and the total number of species in each level was counted.

(Vickery et al. 2023)

Conservation does take into account the whole annual cycle of migrants



Short history of AEMLAP



- Adopted in 2011 (COP11, RES 11.17)
- Coordinated 2011-15 by BirdLife International
- Revision adopted in 2020 at COP13 (i.e. updated species accounts)
- Coordination re-launched in 2021 by Swiss Ornithological Institut
- Update of the Program Of Work 2021-2026 (Lead Coordination Unit, with AEMML-Steering group and CMS Secretariat)

Organisation of AEMLAP

- AEMML working group (actually about 90 members); Chair Dr Olivier Biber
- AEMML steering group
- Coordination Unit

The AEMLAP aims

The AEMALP is an **overarching strategic framework to conserve, restore and sustainably manage populations of migratory landbird species and their habitats.**

It complements the other CMS-Instruments (AEWA, MOU Raptors, CAF) toward restoring the status of all African-Eurasian migratory bird species.

Goals

- 1) **Improving the conservation status** of migratory landbird species along the African-Eurasian region
- 2) **Coordinating actions at the international scale** and through catalysing actions at national level

AEMLAP-Vision

- adequately **monitor landbird species** migrating along the African-Eurasian flyways
- **identify and mitigate threats**
- **improve their conservation** and
- **preserve and/or sustainably manage their habitats.**

The AEMLAP species list

The AEMLAP species list consists of 509 migratory landbirds species (COP13, 2020). Among them, 168 with decreasing global population trend.

The AEMLAP also encompasses following instruments of the CMS:

- MoU Aquatic Warbler
- MoU Middle European Great Bustard
- Single species action plan for the conservation of the European Turtle Dove
- Single species action plan for the conservation of the European Roller
- Single species action plan for the conservation of the Yellow-breasted Bunting (in final preparation)

Complementary CMS-Instruments

The AEMLAP complements the work of the instruments of the CMS:

- AEWA: The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
- MoU Raptors: The Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia
- CAF-Action Plan: The Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats.
- Furthermore, the AEMLAP has a close link to the Migratory Landbirds Study Group (MLSG) and to the Friends of the Landbirds Action Plan (FLAP).

The program of work 2021-2026

A **logical framework approach** was used to set out the objectives and actions of each previously defined strategic field:

Monitoring and Research

Species conservation

Habitat conservation

Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

(Details of the logistic framework in the appendix of this presentation!)

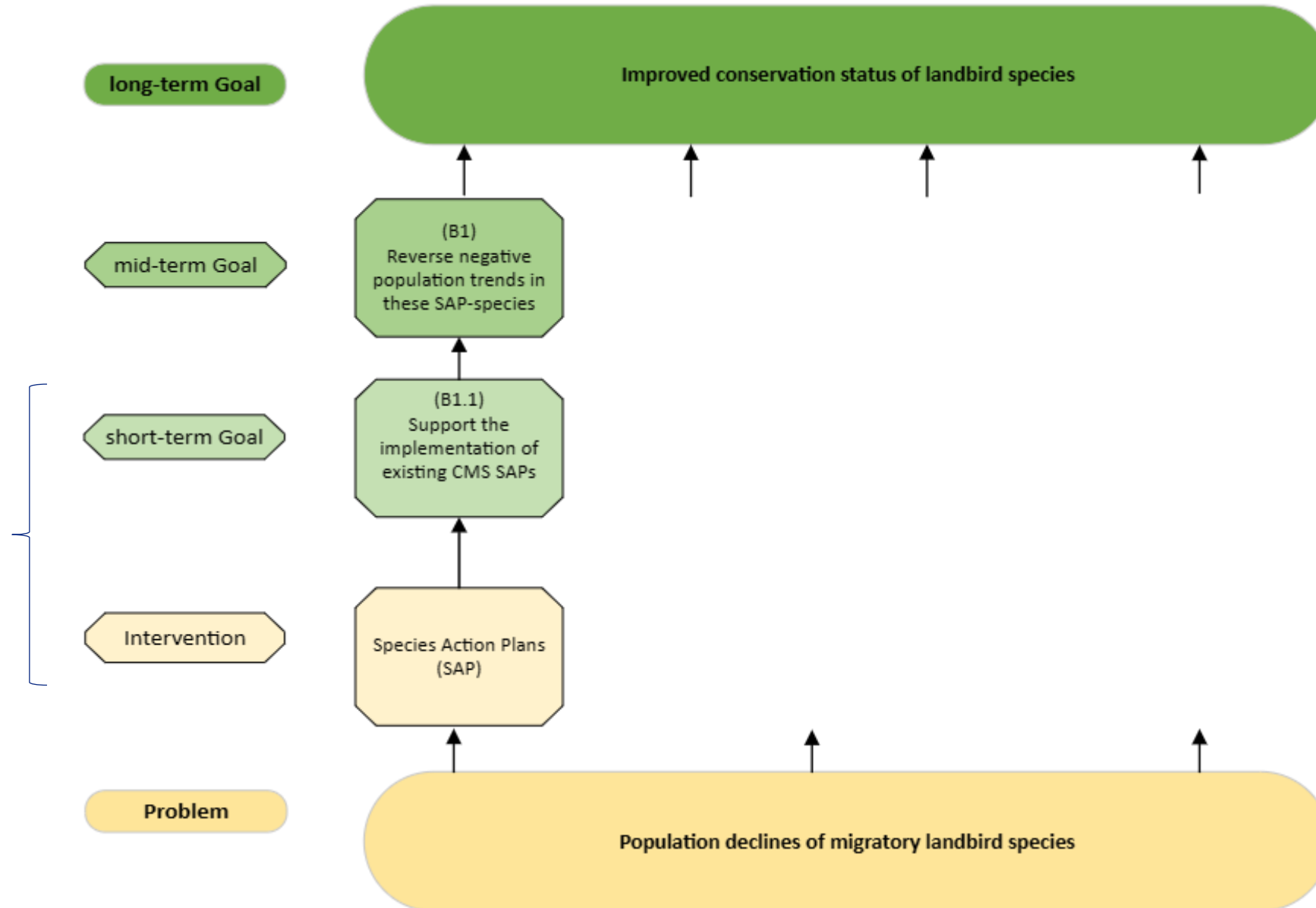
For each of the four strategic fields we defined:

Goals: long-term, mid-term and short-term goals were defined

Interventions: activities and actions are highlighted

Short-term goals are for up to 5 years (until CMS COP₁₅), mid-term goals for up to 10 years; interventions are to be started and implemented within the next 5 years (until CMS COP₁₅)

Species conservation



Actions Monitoring and Research



Goal: (1) Understanding distribution patterns in time and space (monitoring projects)

- Action: Support bird ringing stations & bird observatories
- Action: Supporting monitoring activities: African Bird Atlas Project (ABAP), European Bird Census Council (EBCC)
- Action: Regular update of priority species list



Goal: (2) Identify species-specific migratory patterns, delineating single- and multi-species core areas in time and space

- Action: Individual tracking studies of selected species
- Action: Multi-species analyses delineating core areas and ecological networks



Goal: (3) Identify critical resources related to habitat and land-use changes

- Action: Engage in projects identifying critical food resources

Goal: (4) Close collaboration between AEMLAP and MLSG

- Action: Organize common AEMLAP and Migratory landbirds Study Group meetings
- Action: Co-organize contributions (e.g., talks, symposia, ...) at conferences



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

Interventions: Species conservation

Goal: (1) Identification of priority actions for selected migratory landbird species

- Action: Analysis of landbird species list as basis for species prioritization (CAF, AEMLAP)
- Develop further SAPs

Goal: (2a) Support the implementation of existing CMS SAPs

- Action: International Single Species Action Plans (i.e. European Turtle Dove, European Roller, Yellow-breasted Bunting)

Goal: (2b) Definition of guilds of migratory landbird species with similar needs for actions

- Action: Support the processes for International Action Plan for migratory buntings
- Action: Evaluate multi-species APs for further guilds (species with similar threats)

Goal: (3) Mitigate threats: e.g., unsustainable hunting, window collisions, light pollution

- Action: Engage in CMS Light Pollution Project
- Action: Engage in CMS MIKT (Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean)
- Action: Engage in the CMS Energy Task Force



Interventions Habitat conservation

Goal: (1) Demonstrate the importance of measures to improve habitat quality for migratory birds and sustainable livelihood (multifunctional landscapes)

- **Action:** Engage in projects about the effects of sustainable resource use on palearctic migrants and African bird communities
- **Action:** Engage in projects to combine business activities with conservation/restoration of biodiversity

Goal: (2) Support the development of habitat action plans (lead: AEWA)

- **Action:** Support of the 'Action plans for priority principal bird habitats in the African-Eurasian flyway'



Goal: (3) Search for synergies to improve habitat conditions for migratory landbirds with ongoing large-scale projects (synergies with different stakeholders: BirdLife partners, NGOs, ...)

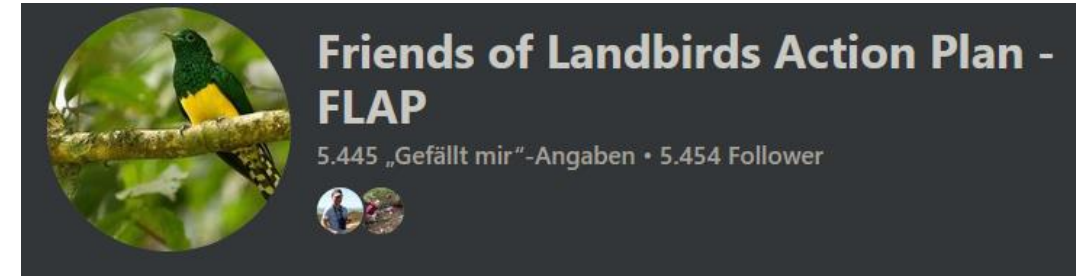
- **Action:** For ex. Increase collaboration with the Great Green Wall Initiative



Interventions Communication, Education and Public Awareness

Goal: (1) Re-activation of FLAP (Friends of the Landbirds Action Plan)

- Action: Create and/or maintain social media channels (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, ...) to enhance visibility



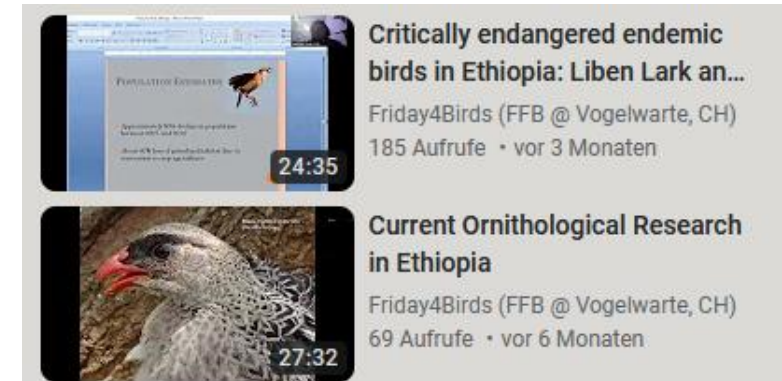
Goal: (2) Increase of visibility of AEMLAP in scientific community

- Action: Organize symposia with AEMLAP focus at international conferences and workshops
- Action: Increase articles on how to save African-Eurasian migratory landbirds



Goal: (3) Capacity development along the flyway

- Action: Webinar series "Fridays4Birds"
<https://www.youtube.com/@Fridays4Birds>



Synergies between AEMLAP and MOU Great Bustard



Collaboration in AEML Working group and Steering group
Regular exchanges about activities and possible synergies

Research

Which is the significance of (protected) sites of Great Bustard for other migratory landbirds (staging, breeding)?



[Flying Great Bustards - Wikimedia Commons](#)

Synergies between AEMLAP and MOU Great Bustard

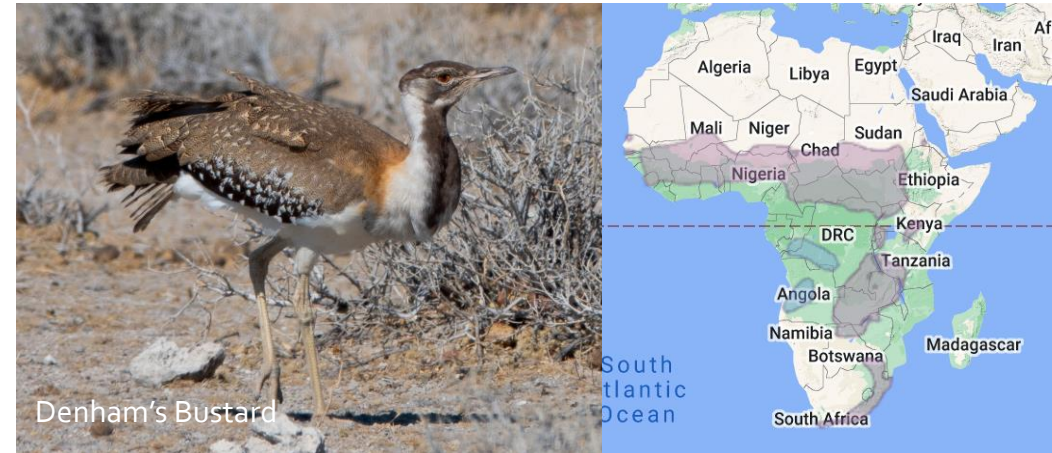


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'Endangered' Intra-African migrants (e.g., Denham's Bustard, Ludwig's Bustard, Nubian Bustard) – lack of knowledge, research needed



Synergies between AEMLAP and MOU Great Bustard

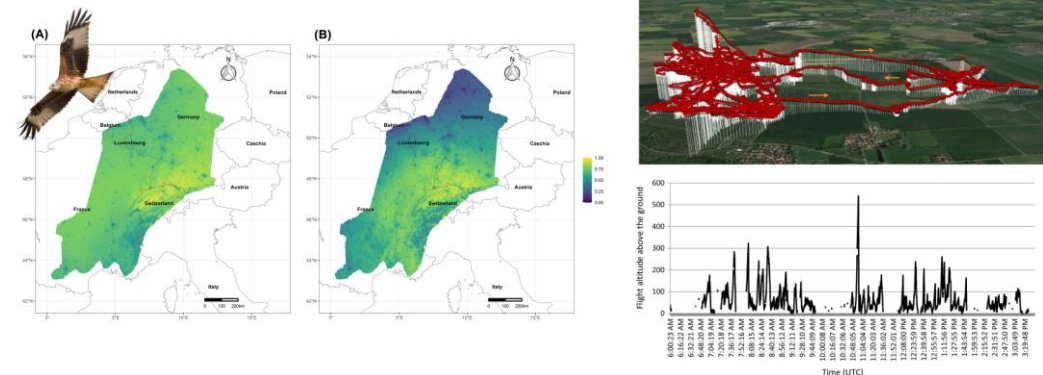
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Expertise of analyses of movement data (Red-kite project, Golden Eagle project at SOI) with potential for collaborations





Kori Bustard and Southern Carmine Bee-eater; David Russell



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Chair of the AEMLAP

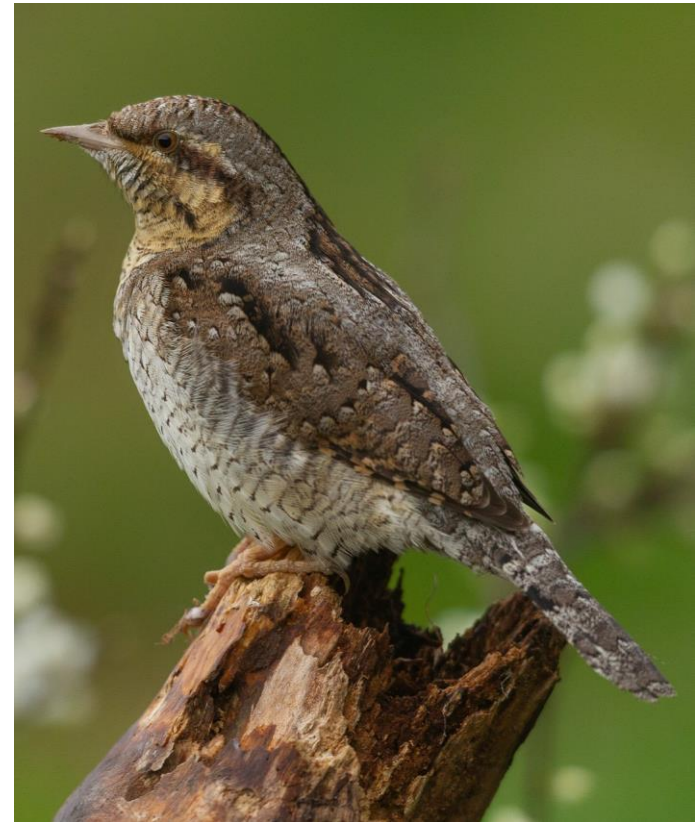
Dr Olivier Bibier o.biber@bluewin.ch



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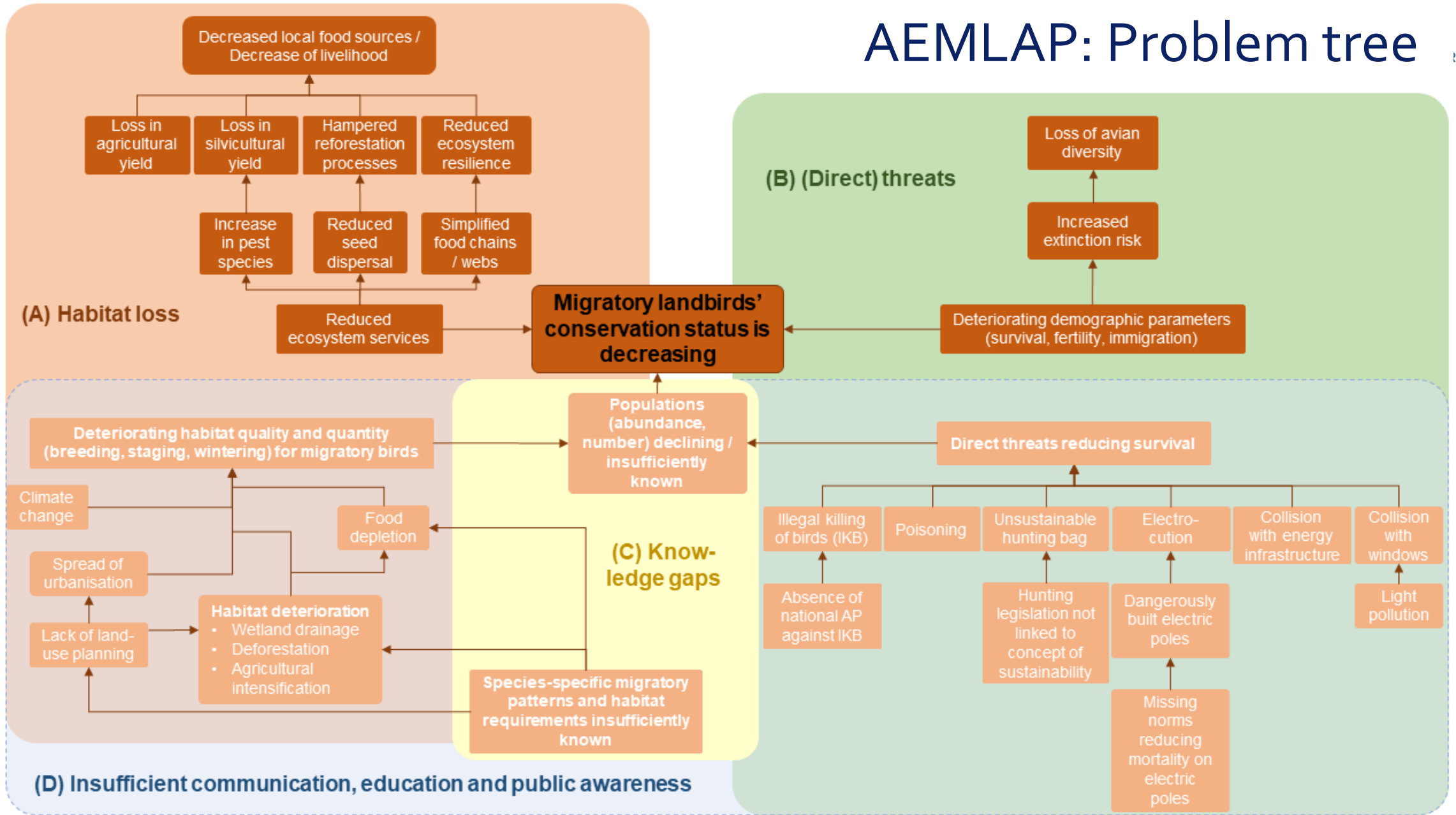
Appendix





AEMLAP: Problem tree

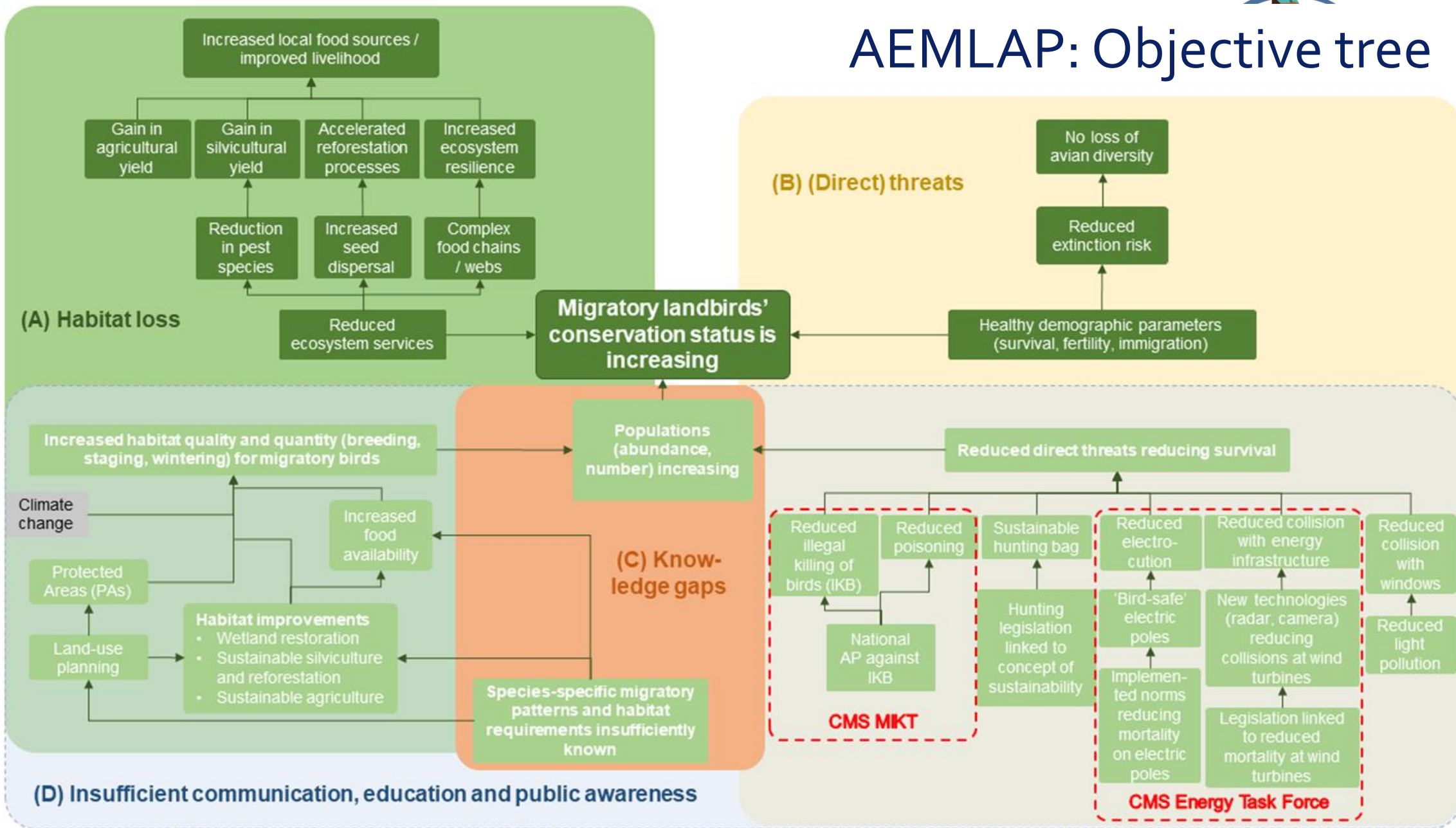
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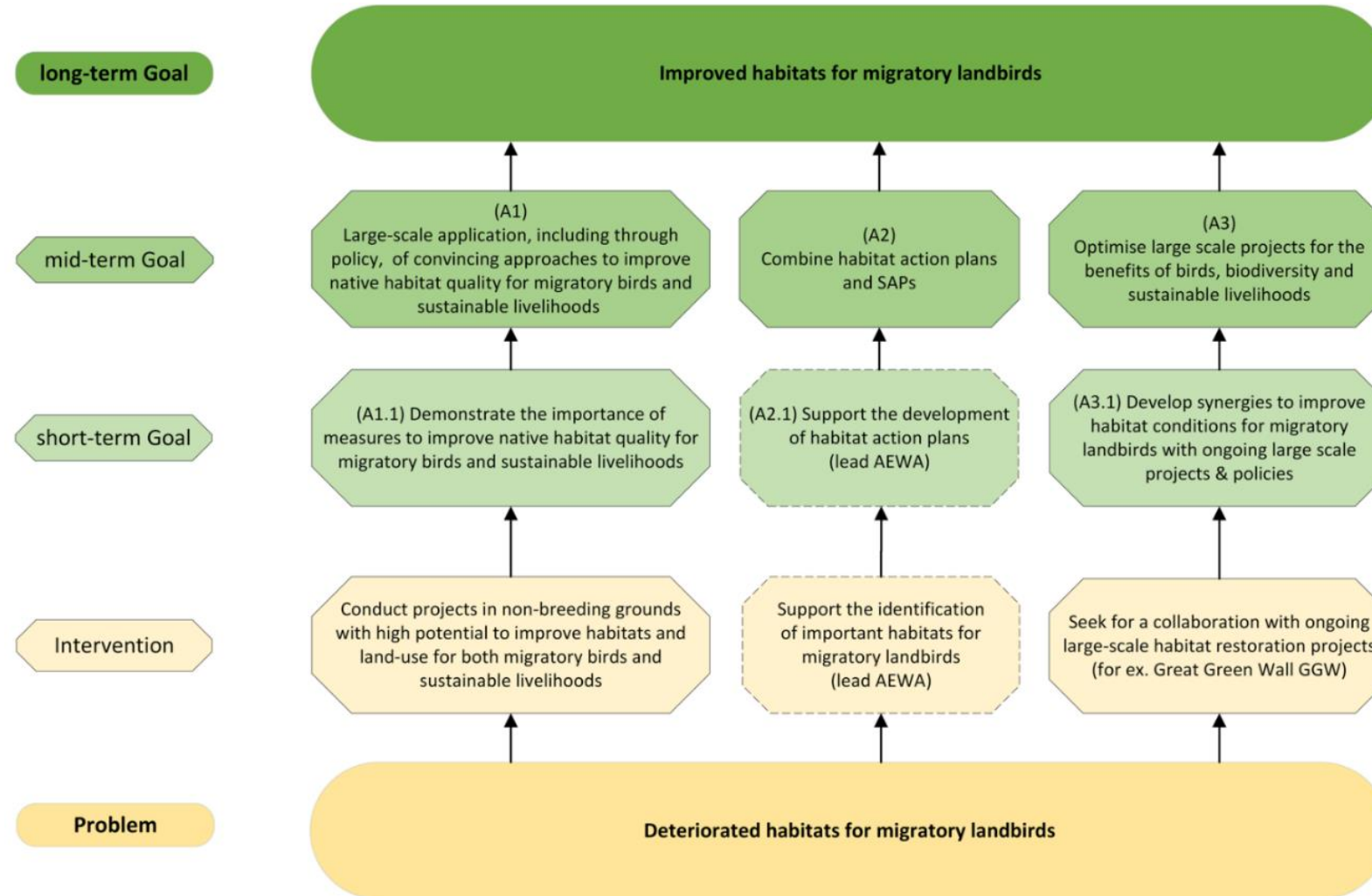


AEMLAP: Objective tree

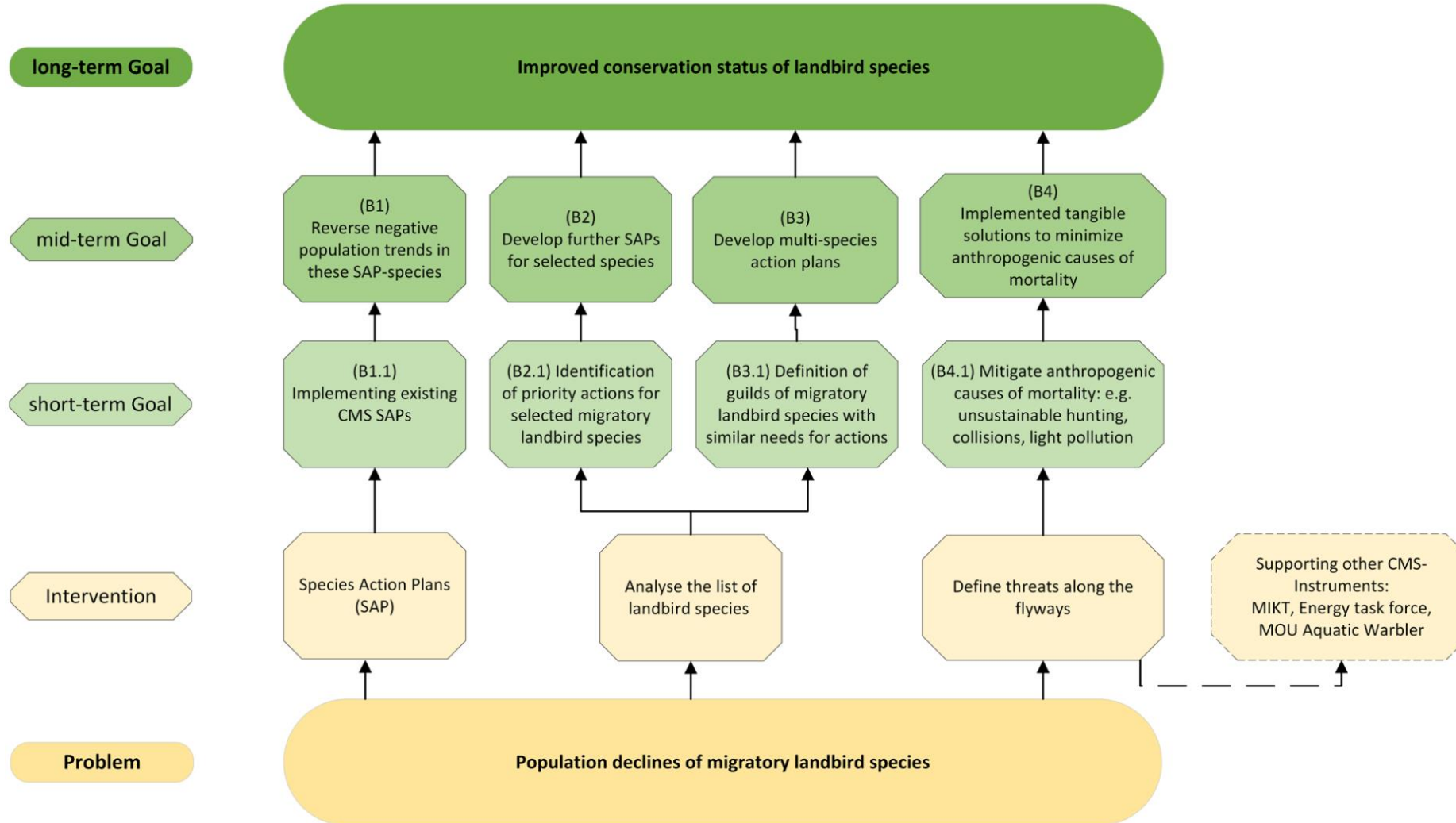
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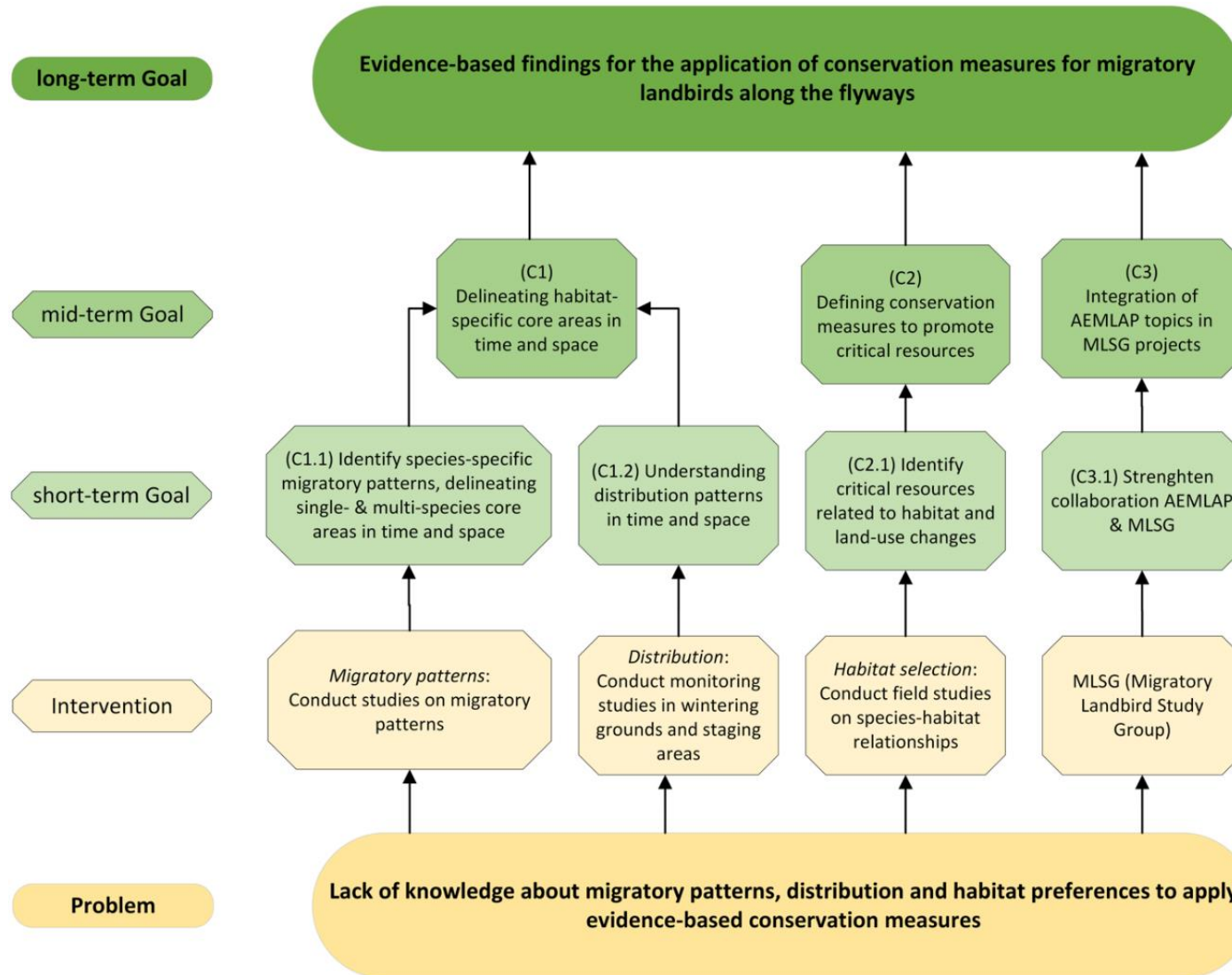
Habitat conservation



Species conservation



Research and monitoring



Communication, Education and Public Awareness

