

IUCN SSC Pelican Specialist Group (Old & New World)

2020 Report



Giorgos Catsadorakis



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Co-Chairs

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Red List Authority Coordinator

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Number of members

79

Social Networks

Website:

<https://www.wetlands.org/our-network/specialist-groups/pelican-specialist-group/>



Mission statement

The mission of the Pelican Specialist Group (Old World and New World Sections) is to carry out, support and promote scientific research and conservation activities aimed at Old World and New World pelicans and enhance cooperation and diffusion of knowledge.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2021, we envision increasing our membership (both Old World and New World sections) and being able to collect and compile better data on the global status and populations of the two (out of five) Old World pelicans which are classified as Near Threatened: the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) and the Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*). Particularly, we will strive to assist in obtaining more knowledge about the status (distribution, populations and threats) of the highly endangered Mongolian subpopulation of the Dalmatian Pelican of the East Asian flyway. In parallel, this knowledge will allow us to plan and implement necessary conservation measures. We would also like to have a better understanding of what is happening with the breeding populations of the Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) in its Eurasian range, as important changes have been observed in recent years. Finally, we would like to contribute to the maintenance of the small and dwindling populations of Dalmatian Pelican in South-eastern Europe and Turkey. In addition to the above, we will establish a New World membership roster.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: improve the assessment of the global population of the Dalmatian Pelican.

Research activities: (1) collect and disseminate data on the status of pelicans in Kazakhstan; (2) review publication on the causes of morbidity and mortality for the Dalmatian Pelican in South-eastern Europe.

Plan

Planning: contribute substantially to the preparation of the Dalmatian Pelican International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP).

Network

Membership: (1) expand membership to experts on species other than Dalmatian Pelican and Great White Pelican; (2) recruit more members working in Central Asian countries and the Russian Federation; (3) build New World membership list.

Proposal development and funding: provide substantial support to individuals and organisations keen to set up new conservation projects for pelicans.

Synergy: enhance interaction with the WI-IUCN SSC Cormorant Research Group.

Communicate

Communication: enhance the degree of contact and information exchange between our members.

Scientific meetings: organise and chair a 'Pelicans of the World Symposium', jointly with both Old World and New World Pelican Specialist Group sections, at the 2019 Waterbird Society Annual Conference and General Meeting.

Courtship flights are regularly observed at Gippsland Lakes, Victoria, Australia
Photo: John Hutchison

Near Threatened Spot-billed Pelican, *Pelecanus philippensis*, foraging in a shallow lake, named Muttanahalli kere, near Kikkare-Bellur Community Reserve, Southern India
Photo: Aksheeta Mahapatra/ Wildlife Institute of India



Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

i. The European Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (EBBA2; Keller, V., et al. (2020). *European Breeding Bird Atlas 2: Distribution, Abundance and Change*. Barcelona: European Bird Census Council & Lynx Edicions.) contains information from Russia that contributes to a much better global estimation of the Dalmatian Pelican, but much is still to be done. (KSR #1)

Network

Proposal development and funding

i. Two projects were supported, namely the Mongolian–Chinese initiatives (Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia; we provided some colour rings and continued offering advice) for the conservation of the endangered small population of the Dalmatian Pelican. We also continued participating in the Task Force (East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Dalmatian Pelican Task Force) for the same goal. We also supported one initiative in India for the Spot-billed Pelican (Aksheeta Mahapatra).

Communicate

Scientific meetings

i. Nothing special was done to enhance the degree of contact and information exchange between our members. However, we continued the operation of our dedicated email list titled PELECANUS GROUP, which now has 79 members. We also produced two hopefully useful documents, one for monitoring methods of ground nesting pelicans (Society for the Protection of Prespa. 2020. Dalmatian Pelican Monitoring Manual. Rewilding Europe, Nijmegen. Produced within the framework of Pelican Way of LIFE Project (LIFE18/ NAT / NL/ 716)) and the other an identification guide



Near Threatened Spot-billed Pelicans, *Pelecanus philippensis*, at Uppalppadu, Andhra Pradesh, India
Photo: Dr. Kannan Vaithianathan

for the Dalmatian Pelican (Society for the Protection of Prespa. 2020. Dalmatian Pelican identification Manual. Companion document to “The Dalmatian Pelican Monitoring Manual”. Rewilding Europe, Nijmegen. Produced within the framework of Pelican Way of LIFE Project (LIFE18/NAT/NL/716)). (KSR #28)

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Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5

Assess	1	
Network	1	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 28

KSR: Key Species Result