Mission statement
To conserve the world’s most threatened waterfowl by focusing on direct action; developing, demonstrating and disseminating best conservation practice and processes; and actively promoting and encouraging information exchange on threatened waterfowl monitoring, research, conservation and public awareness worldwide. We will do this through producing and implementing international action plans, incorporating in situ and ex situ conservation tools, as necessary; by providing advice to policy makers, international conventions and practitioners; and by encouraging information exchange and cooperation amongst threatened waterfowl conservationists and with other relevant conventions and organisations.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium
By the end of 2020, the Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group (TWSG) will have held the Baer’s Pochard (Aythya baeri) workshop, produced a prioritised list of conservation actions and fundraised for the highest conservation priority projects. Until the workshop is held in March 2018 it is not possible to say what these will be. By the end of 2020, we will have released over 100 Madagascar Pochard (Aythya innotata) into the wild at Lake Sofia, we will understand how best to release birds at Lake Sofia, and we will have developed clear targets for success. We will have a better understanding of the past ecology of the breeding site and will understand the impact of conservation interventions. By 2020 we hope that the population of Ruddy Ducks (Oxyura jamaicensis) in France will have been significantly reduced.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess
Research activities: (1) Madagascar Pochard: conduct paleoecology PhD study to determine past ecology of Lake Sofia to inform future management of the lake; (2) Madagascar Pochard: conduct PhD study to understand the effect of conservation interventions at the last remaining breeding site.

Plan

Act
Conservation actions: (1) Baer’s Pochard: maintain a viable captive population of Baer’s Pochard at Slimbridge; (2) Madagascar Pochard: maintain a captive breeding population of Madagascar Pochard in Madagascar; (3) Madagascar Pochard: conduct Madagascar Pochard Disease Risk Assessment; (4) Madagascar Pochard: produce a Madagascar Pochard release plan; (5) Madagascar Pochard: begin releases of Madagascar Pochard into the wild; (6) Madagascar Pochard: release up to 40 Madagascar Pochard per annum into the wild at Lake Sofia; (7) Madagascar Pochard: conduct post-release monitoring to improve understanding of pochard ecology and inform future management of the lake; (8) Madagascar Pochard: maintain Aquaponics systems in the Slimbridge captive breeding facilities; (9) Madagascar Pochard: produce plan for how and when the Aquaponics system will be rolled out in Madagascar; (10) Madagascar Pochard: continue habitat management and restoration activities at the proposed release site, working through local associations; (11) White-headed Duck (Oxyura leucocephala): review implementation of the European Ruddy Duck eradication strategy and produce recommendations for its
Act

Conservation actions
i. Two breeding centres established and running in Antsohihy, Madagascar. (KSR #25)
ii. Madagascar Pochard: Twenty-one Madagascar Pochard were released at Lake Sofia in December 2018. By 2019, nine birds were living on the lake and two females hatched 12 young in November. (KSR #25)
iii. Madagascar Pochard: Local monitoring team trained and in place throughout year. (KSR #25)

Technical advice

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Activities and results 2019

Assess

Research activities

Act

Conservation actions

Communication: maintain the TWSG forum list server to facilitate communication between TWSG members.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Research activities