

# **Constitution of SE European Bird Migration Network**

## **Introduction**

### **Article 1**

**1.1.** SE European Bird Migration Network (SEEN) is an international umbrella organisation for institutions that study bird migration, especially by means of catching and ringing of birds at all sites and/or regions (e.g. the Baltic region, Central & Eastern European countries, the Black Sea region) located along the south eastern migration route.

**1.2.** Participation in SEEN is voluntary, based on equal rights for every party and self-independence of each member institution within the Network. The following bodies shall have the option to become members of SEEN: ornithological research stations, departments and laboratories of colleges, universities and other higher schools, scientific and nature protection organisations, non-governmental organisations and study groups working in the field of bird migration research.

**1.3.** SEEN's funds shall consist of: donations from different international and national organisations and institutions, grants for specific scientific study, donations from any institutions, organisations, public etc.

## **Objectives of SE European Bird Migration Network**

### **Article 2**

**2.1.** Objectives of SEEN are to:

- Encourage research and enhance understanding of the migratory flyways, to forward conservation of birds and their habitats;
- Encourage research of endangered species so as to help countries implement their conservation plans efficiently and to fulfil obligations under international conventions, especially the Bonn and Ramsar Conventions;
- Assist in international co-operation and the exchange of information and experience relating to bird migration;
- Elaborate and develop scientifically based principles for the long-term monitoring of bird migration at an international level that can be used for the conservation of migratory bird species and their habitats;
- Establish uniform methodology for all member institutions of SEEN so as to increase effectiveness of research of bird migrations;
- Enable all members to obtain and improve their professional methodology in the field;
- Help to publish and publicise the results of scientific research, especially joint-studies of the members of SEEN.

**2.2.** To achieve its aims SEEN shall:

- Produce joint scientific publications and recommendations for conservation of migratory birds;
- Organise workshops to facilitate the discussion of current methodological problems and exchange of recent scientific advances;
- Set standards for the collection and the exchange of data;
- Produce instructions and manuals;
- Organise training courses and sessions on methods of fieldwork of bird migration (bird catching, ringing, measurements etc.) and evaluation techniques of the data;
- Organise working groups for detailed analysis of specific problems or species migration;
- Establish and manage a common computer data base.

## **Membership**

### **Article 3**

SEEN shall have only collective members.

**3.1.** To become a member of SEEN one has to:

- Make a declaration of intent to observe the articles of SEEN Constitution;
- Fill out a standard questionnaire that provides information about the name of the candidate institution, details of past and planned migration research activity, and names the person in charge of the project/s.

**3.2.** A member will be admitted to SEEN by the Board; in case of a controversy the decision of the General Assembly shall be considered as final.

**3.3.** A member institution has the right to:

- Delegate a representative that can vote in the name of the member institution at the General Assembly;
- Be informed of the current and planned work and activities of SEEN;
- Take part as well as organise training and methodological workshops of SEEN;
- Use data collected by SEEN and supplied to a Central Data Base of the Network (according to the rules for use of SEEN Central Data Base);
- Scientifically consult with SEEN;
- Receive and use standard materials (e.g. data collecting forms, questionnaires) and computer programmes prepared within SEEN;
- Be eligible for material, technical and financial support if corresponding funds are available within SEEN.

**3.4.** A member institution has to:

- Adhere to the SEEN Constitution;
- Collaborate with other SEEN members to collect and apply scientific data within prescribed limits;
- Apply methodological standards developed within SEEN and follow the procedures of exchange of data with the Central Data Base and other SEEN members;
- Be active in work, carrying out tasks and resolving problems of SEEN;
- Report annually about the work accomplished within SEEN.

**3.5.** Membership shall end only if a member cancels, or the member is not actively involved in SEEN's work for a period of 5 years, or in case of violation of the Articles of this Constitution, or the regulations, according to the decision of the General Assembly.

## **Internal organisation of SE European Bird Migration Network**

### **Article 4**

**4.1.** The General Assembly shall oversee the functioning of SEEN; every member institution shall appoint one representative that will represent one vote. The General Assembly must meet at least once every 4 years. The business of SEEN shall be conducted by the Board. The Board shall comprise of a Chairperson, Vice - Chairperson, Secretary and two Members - at-large. Members of the Board shall be appointed for a duration of 4 years.

**4.2.** The General Assembly shall:

- Adopt the Constitution and make the amendments to this document. An amendment of the Articles may only be adopted if at least two-thirds of the votes cast support the change and only if at least half of the representatives of all member organisations are present at that Assembly;
- Approve long-term and annual programmes of SEEN;
- Establish methodological standards and procedures for the exchange of data;
- Set the principles for distribution of funds acquired for material, technical and financial support for the member institution and approve the Board's report;
- Elect the Board and its Chairperson;
- Approve the working groups and define their tasks;
- Discuss the proposals concerning SEEN activities.

**4.3.** The Board shall:

- Conduct scientific, organisational and financial work for and of SEEN;
- Define organisational tasks and convene the General Assembly;
- Prepare the programme, methodological and organisational proposals;
- Co-ordinate preparation of reports and scientific publications;
- Have the authority to make the daily organisational and financial decisions between the General Assembly; appropriate decisions can be reached by postal / e-mail votes.

Board meetings will be minuted and circulated to all members.

**4.4.** The Chairperson of the Board shall:

- Represent SEEN in meetings with national and international authorities and scientific bodies;
- Co-ordinate international co-operation and have authority to establish international agreements on behalf of SEEN;
- Manage the daily organisational and financial work of SEEN;
- Open and close meetings of the Board and the General Assembly;
- supply information and report on the Board's work.

**4.5.** The domicile of SEEN shall be the Bird Migration Research Station of University of Gdańsk in Przebendowo, Poland (Stacja Badania Wędrówek Ptaków Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego w Przebendowie, Polska). The domicile can be changed by the General Assembly as an amendment to the SEEN Constitution.

**4.6.** THE RING will be the journal of preference for SEEN.

**4.7.** All decisions at the General Assembly and the Board's meetings, except voting on the amendments to the Constitution, shall be a result of the majority of the votes cast. In the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

## **Final articles**

### **Article 5.**

SEEN can be dissolved according to an amendment to the Network Constitution (the provisions of Article 4 section 2 shall apply). The General Assembly that shall decide on dissolution of SEEN must also decide on the future of the Central Data Base and any assets that results from the Network activity.