

MLSG statutes

Organisation structure

The MLSG is managed by an Executive Committee consisting of a Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer and not less than three and not more than seven ordinary Executive Committee members. In addition any President, Vice Presidents or Honorary Executive Committee Members holding office at the time may attend meetings but not vote.

Each Officer (Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer) shall be elected by a General Meeting, shall hold office for a maximum term of six years and is then ineligible for re-election to the Executive Committee within 12 months, except that the Treasurer or General Secretary may immediately become Chairman. Any of the above officers may be elected for two additional years by a General Meeting if it appears that there is no other suitable person available to fill that position. On completion of such an additional term the Officer is ineligible for re-election to the Executive Committee within 12 months, except in the specific cases previously stated.

Each ordinary Executive Committee member shall hold office for a maximum term of six years. Retiring ordinary members of the Executive Committee are ineligible for re-election as ordinary Executive Committee members within 12 months, but are eligible for election as an Officer (Chairman, General Secretary or Treasurer).

If a vacancy occurs, the Executive Committee may co-opt an individual in an acting capacity until the next General Meeting.

The Executive Committee will elect a Vice-Chairman from amongst the ordinary Executive Committee members. The Vice-Chairman will normally serve until the end of their period of office as an ordinary Executive Committee member.

The Executive Committee will normally meet twice a year. The General Secretary will send an announcement of each Executive Committee Meeting to all members to allow them to submit items for the agenda. The quorum for an Executive Committee Meeting shall be at least half of the voting members. Decisions shall be by simple majority. Each meeting will be minuted and a report will be circulated to all members within one month of the meeting. The Executive Committee may, if necessary, take decisions between meetings following correspondence about a subject.

Honorary Executive Committee members may be elected by the General Meeting for any specified term following a recommendation from the Executive Committee. Such members will provide advice to the Executive Committee and may attend Executive Committee meetings at the invitation of the Chairman. They will not be entitled to vote and will not be included when determining whether the Executive Committee is quorate.

A President and any number of Vice-Presidents may be elected by the General Meeting following a recommendation from the Executive Committee. Presidents and Vice-Presidents will be elected for six-year terms. After two successive terms they will not be eligible for immediate re-election.

The role of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents will be to promote the aims of the MLSG and to provide advice to the Officers and Executive Committee members. They may attend Executive Committee meetings at the invitation of the Chairman. They will not be entitled to vote and will not be included when determining whether the Executive Committee is quorate.

The Chairman is responsible for the internal organisation of the Executive Committee, chairs the General Meeting and represents MLSG externally.

The Vice Chairman shall replace the Chairman in his or her absence and shall assist the Chairman on request.

The General Secretary is responsible for the official correspondence of the MLSG, for communication to and from members and keeps records of the MLSG.

The Treasurer is responsible for keeping MLSG accounts, the collection of membership dues and the production of an annual financial report. The Treasurer will provide the financial committee with all information requested.

Official agreements made on behalf of the MLSG must be signed by the Chairman and by either the Vice-Chairman, General Secretary or Treasurer.

Finance

General objective

The main aim of the foundation is to maintain and expand the website www.migrantlandbirds.org with contact and project information of any party, person or organisation, working on migrant landbirds within the Palaearctic. Main expenses thus will be the maintenance of this website.

Specific objectives – workgroups

The MLSG aims to have acquired sufficient funds in the next five years to financially support the emergence of workgroups that work on specific species, habitat types, with the aim to exchange and converge knowledge and increase conservation efforts across countries and organisations.

Ways to achieve objectives

Funding will mainly be acquired from bigger NGO's involved in the study and conservation of migrant landbirds, such as organisations related to Birdlife, WWF, but also specific funding opportunities for networking groups as the MLSG such as COST: European Cooperation in Science and Technology.

Website

The core of our activities revolves around the website. By supplying data on their activities, people can access and engage in and exchange information, methods, and best practices, to streamline research efforts aimed at conserving migrant landbirds throughout the Palaearctic region.

Timeline

The MLSG was founded June 2014 and officially registered at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in March 2015. The first main event of the group will take place Monday 24 August at the European Ornithological Union Conference where we will organize a symposium aiming at identifying current knowledge gaps and the corresponding roles the MLSG as a group and as executive committee can develop to facilitate research aimed at conservation.

At the same time the website should be completely developed and ready to be populated with data on contact details, events, and ongoing research & conservation efforts.

In the coming years more funding will be acquired with the aim to distribute these to projects that aim to collaborate between institutes and countries on conserving landbirds in the Palaearctic region.