

Agami Heron Working Group  
HeronConservation – The Heron Specialist Group  
**STRATEGIC STATEMENT**  
2015-2020

The Agami Heron Working Group (AHWG) is a working group created in 2015 under the Heron Specialist Group.

The Heron Specialist Group, HeronConservation, is an independent network of biologists, conservationists, and others engaged in research and conservation of herons.

In 2015, it set the Strategic Statement for its first phase, 2015-2020. The present report summarizes this statement.

**Purpose:**

Historically, the AHWG was formed for the writing of the first Conservation Plan of the species. After completion of this document in English, French and Spanish, it took over some specific actions concerning Agami heron conservation. Its overarching goal is to **facilitate planning and on-the-ground conservation actions through networking**, based on the *Agami Heron Conservation Plan* conservation priorities. The AHWG achieves its goals by:

- maintaining a membership network,
- providing that network with communication mechanisms,
- administration of an Agami heron database,
- administration of a national and international legislation database pertinent to Agami herons,
- encouraging and coordinating the monitoring of population size and success at each important colony site,
- scientific syntheses,
- technical methodology, and
- professional networking.

It works as a topic-oriented working group under HeronConservation. As such, it benefits from the support of HeronConservation when needed and possible, but stays self-organized.

**Organization and Membership:**

The AHWG is led by a coordinator; members willing to help with specific tasks can take over some coordination aspects. The coordinator represents the group's interests as member of the HeronConservation steering committee.

Members are nominated, including through self-nomination, because of their interest and engagement in Agami herons, their biology or conservation. The Group maintains an open and welcoming approach to initial membership. Members are expected to participate in the membership communication network. A review of membership takes place every three years (next in 2018).

The members are:

Antoine Baglan, French Guiana  
Heather Barrett, Belize  
John Brzorad, USA

**Deborah Chen, Peru**

Rob Clay, Paraguay

Jorge Correa Sandoval, Mexico

Nyls de Pracontal, French Guiana

Griselda Escalona-Segura, Mexico

Carlos Fernandez-Alfaro, Costa Rica

Bertrand Goguillon, French Guiana

James Kushlan, USA

Arne Lesterhuis, Paraguay

Luis Gonzalo Morales, Venezuela

Murilo Reis, Peru

Raphaëlle Rinaldo, French Guiana

Carlos Ruiz-Guerra, Colombia

Paulo R. Silvestro, Brazil

**Anna Stier, French Guiana**

Jan Van der Winden, Netherlands

**Communications:**

Facilitating communications is a primary function of the AHWG. The Group's communications outlets are at present the HeronConservation Website ([www.HeronConservation.org](http://www.HeronConservation.org)) and HeronConservation Facebook page (HeronConservation). This is implemented through direct posts or in relation with the Communication Working Group of HeronConservation (chaired by Rob Clay). The development of chat rooms and list serves will be evaluated. Other outlets could be developed and shared by members (exhibitions, posters...).

**Partnerships:**

The AHWG partners with Wetlands International, particularly on Agami heron population assessments, and with BirdLife International, particularly on Agami heron Red List reviews. The AHWG stays open for future partnerships with other institutions if relevant.

**Syntheses:**

The AHWG completed a Conservation Plan in 2015. This document is available online and will be updated and reviewed for 2020.

It will also make available every year the updated colony database.

**Meetings:**

At this time the Group will not plan for a global meeting, however it will take advantage of various meetings and conferences that would attract those interested in herons to offer content on Agami herons. If funds get available, the AHWG will consider meetings for group members in places where colonies are located and managed.

**Review and Revision**

It is anticipated that the Agami Heron Working Group should conduct its next strategic review in 2019.