



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

The Tenth Meeting of the Aerodromes Operations and
Planning Sub-Group (AOP/SG/10)

Bangkok, Thailand, 10 to 14 August 2026

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business

**WORLD BIRDSTRIKE ASSOCIATION (WBA): SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK
FOR WILDLIFE HAZARD MANAGEMENT**

(Presented by the WORLD BIRDSTRIKE ASSOCIATION (WBA))

SUMMARY

This paper highlights the critical role of the World Birdstrike Association (WBA), the only ICAO-recognised global association dedicated to wildlife hazard management in aviation. It outlines the growing challenges posed by increasing air traffic, new airport developments, and changing environmental conditions, emphasizing the need for globally harmonized guidance and best practices. The paper also presents WBA's new governance and sustainable membership framework to strengthen its long-term capability to support Member States, airports, airlines, and industry stakeholders. It invites the meeting to recognize the importance of supporting WBA's mission to enhance global aviation safety through collaborative wildlife hazard management.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The World Birdstrike Association (WBA) is the only international association specifically recognised by ICAO to support global aviation safety in the specialised field of Wildlife Hazard Management (WHM). While wildlife hazards continue to present a significant operational and safety risk to aviation, this discipline is often underrepresented despite increasing aircraft movements, environmental change, and the rapid development of new Greenfield airports.

1.2 Through this Information Paper, WBA seeks to raise awareness of the critical role wildlife hazard management plays in maintaining safe, sustainable aviation. Similar to the roles played by IATA for airlines and ACI for airports, WBA serves as the global platform dedicated exclusively to advancing wildlife hazard management through collaboration, guidance, training, and the sharing of international best practices.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 For more than a decade, WBA has operated with extremely limited resources while delivering significant value to the global aviation community. The Association has relied primarily on biennial conferences to generate funding while providing guidance, technical support, awareness programmes, training, and expert advice to members, regulators, airports, airlines, and other stakeholders, much of it at no cost.

2.2 It has become increasingly evident that this funding model is no longer sustainable. To continue supporting ICAO's objectives and the aviation community, WBA requires a stronger and more resilient organisational and financial structure.

2.3 WBA will therefore be introducing a renewed governance framework, including a new Board structure and a revised membership model with annual membership fees. These changes are designed to strengthen the Association's long-term sustainability while enabling greater support to Member States, aerodromes, regulators, airlines, and industry partners.

2.4 The aviation industry is entering a period of unprecedented growth. Expanding airport infrastructure, increasing aircraft movements, climate change, biodiversity considerations, and evolving wildlife behaviour require harmonised international guidance and coordinated action. WBA remains committed to working closely with ICAO and other stakeholders to develop practical guidance, promote global best practices, and encourage the safe coexistence of wildlife and aviation.

2.5 WBA respectfully appeals to all existing and future members, industry partners, airports, airlines, regulators, and Member States to support the Association during this important period of transformation. With collective support, WBA can continue its mission of improving global aviation safety through effective wildlife hazard management.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and support WBA's renewed governance and sustainable membership framework; and
- b) encourage Member States, aviation organisations, airports, airlines and industry stakeholders to actively engage with and support WBA in advancing harmonised global wildlife hazard management practices.

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