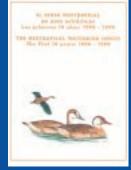
## THE NEOTROPICAL WATERBIRD CENSUS

The first 10 years: 1990-1999 New report

The Neotropical Waterbird Census (NWC) was begun in 1990, as part of the International Waterfowl Census (IWC) of the IWRB (today Wetlands International) thanks to the creative vision of the late Pablo Canevari.

The program was established to provide information on variations in population size and distribution of waterbirds in the Neotropics. It began



in southern South America (Argentina, Chile and Uruguay), with geographical coverage increasingly expanding to the north, to Colombia and

Ecuador in 1995. After ten years, Wetlands International with the important support of Ducks Unlimited Inc. (USA), is publishing a special report that includes an analysis of the value of the NWC as a conservation and wildlife management tool, based on data gathered during 1990-1994; and includes the results of the census on an enclosed CD-ROM

Daniel Blanco Wetlands International **Buenos Aires Office** 

for the period 1995-1999.

Contact: dblanco@wamani.apc.org

# 3rd International Update Report on Lead Poisoning in Waterbirds

This report reviews the large-scale environmental problem of lead shot ingestion by waterbirds. An analysis of responses to a questionnaire prepared by Wetlands International and returned by 75 countries (governments and NGOs) and 9 international organisations world-wide, is presented. The analysis



addresses the current state of legislation concerning the use of lead shot, and describes levels of lead shot awareness. coordination, research and development. It

relevant developments since

The report concludes with recommendations to governments, non-governmental organisations, hunters' associations and ammunition manufacturers about lead shot. The report is being distributed in hard copy form to governments, organisations and to individuals who contributed information. The report is available free for downloading at http://www.wetlands.org/news&/N ewsItems/Lead\_P\_Report.

Contact: Beintema@wetlands.agro.nl

### Wetlands International - DGIS supported Global Programme on Wise Use of Wetlands progress report and future outlook

The Global Programme on Conservation and Wise Use of Vetlands, which established a novel mechanism to support development-related projects identified by Wetlands International and its global partner organisations, is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry, through DGIS, provided Euro 2.2 million to Wetlands International for the period April 2001 to the end of June 2002. The Programme has four main focal areas on peatlands, wetlands and poverty alleviation, inventory and assessment and support to the River Basin Initiative. In addition, there is a fifth cross-cutting support area for training and outreach.

The peatlands focal area is managed separately by the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI) Steering Committee, as reported elsewhere in this issue. The remaining three focal areas are managed by Wetlands International assisted by a Global Steering Group of IUCN (Wetlands and Water Resources Programme), WWF International, Birdlife International, and two Conventions - Ramsar Bureau and CBD Secretariat. The Programme attracted far more proposals than it has funds to support, and at the time of writing had received 45 applications from 22 countries, seeking a total of over Euro 3 million. All projects must conclude by the end of June 2002, therefore the challenge was to select projects which have the highest chance of success, and which could be built upon, perhaps in a future phase of the Global Programme, or through comparable mechanisms at national or international level.

The Programme considered projects delivering at global, regional or national level, because the agreement with DGIS enabled not only support for strengthening conservation and wise use at national level or below, but also support to enable development and implementation of Convention-related obligations. At the time of writing contracts had been signed or offers made for the following

Global level activities: IUCN Assessment of the status of freshwater biodiversity, forming part of the wider Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment conducted by the IUCN Species Survival Commission. The project aims to develop and disseminate training modules to enable the Red List assessment methods, and associated skills in identifying important freshwater biodiversity sites. Support for the oint CBD-Ramsar Convention River Basin Initiative first technical design workshop, to enable effective global development of its tools and partners responsibilities in achieving results.

Regional: The Asian Wetland Inventory, to strengthen the capacity of at least 10 countries to integrate wetland inventory into their planning process and to assist governments to enable prioritisation of conservation and wise use actions. The Niger Basin Initiative, West Africa, building environmental, ecological and conservation concerns into the development plan for the Basin, in cooperation with GEF and the Niger Basin Authority.

National and sub-national: Wetland inventory support to Bulgaria and Belarus, to enable effective development strategies to be developed. Strengthening wetland awareness and community development for the Turiec wetlands Ramsar Site in the Slovak Republic. Local community relevant guide to the fish of the first Malaysian Ramsar Site, also useful in public awareness and education. Support to the evaluation workshop for the first East African Wetland Management Training Course. Integrated Water Management for the Kafue Flats, Zambia, building upon many years of experience and using integrated bottom up methods to integrate stakeholders into the design and delivery of the project.

As well as supporting an encouraging range of activities, the DGIS support has enabled leverage of, on average, an additional 50% of direct funds (a conservative estimate) above the support provided. Within the short time horizon of the Global Programme, a great deal will have been achieved by the close of this phase (end of June 2002). We look forward to the success of the activities as measured by sustainable results in the years to come.



Wetlands

**December 2001 Number 11** 

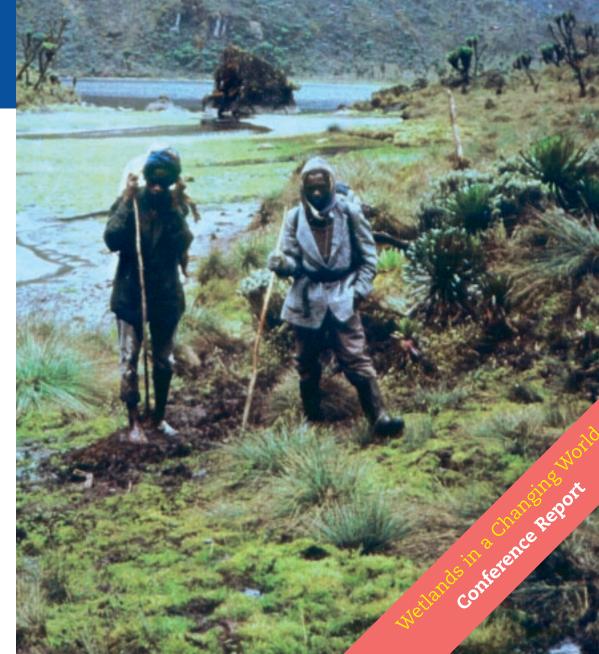


In this issue:

Global **Peatland Initiative** 

**Spotlight on** the Seaduck **Specialist** Group





### From the **President**

As you will read in this issue of Wetlands significant changes have been made to the structure and modus operendi of Wetlands International. The governance and management structures have been altered in response to some very pressing financial and operational imperatives and the program structure and emphases are also being redefined. A new organisation is in place and some major decisions have already been addressed. We need to make further decisions and still face many challenges. Before we face these challenges I'd like to personally express gratitude to the many people who have supported our efforts since Wetlands International was

formed in 1995. Many people

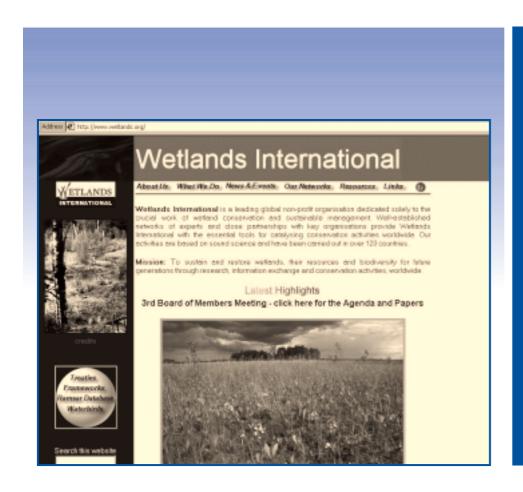
have provided a lot of their time and energy and contributed to the effort that enabled us to initially develop our organisational 'persona' and then accept that change was necessary. This has taken hard work, dedication and courage. Thank-you everyone and especially Chris Kalden for his support and leadership.

In the next weeks and months we will implement the many essential steps that will reshape the future of Wetlands International. This will not always be easy - patience, wisdom and perseverance will be valuable traits. It will take time to achieve the aspirations that we share for Wetlands International. And it will take a combined effort the members, specialist groups and staff all have a valuable part



to play as we demonstrate that Wetlands International has a role and mission that invests upon our past efforts and establishes a firm agenda and role for the future. I look forward to working with you and implementing our recent decisions - together we can demonstrate the wisdom of those decisions.

Max Finlayson maxf@eriss.erin.gov.au



#### www.wetlands.org

Following consultations with our stakeholders we are pleased to announce the launch of a new web site for Wetlands International.

The NEW site already contains well over 10,000 webpages. www.wetlands.org now provides the gateway to all Wetlands International operations from Oceania to Japan to West Africa to South America.

Using 2 menu systems, as opposed to the old 1 menu system, you now have direct access from the home page to programme themes including the Ramsar Database, the Asian Wetland Inventory, Waterbird Monitoring and the River Basin Initiative.

Please send any news items for inclusion on the site to Nicolette Petri: petri@wetlands.agro.nl

# Progress on the Global Peatland Initiative

Marcel Silvius & Herbert Diemont

The Global Peatland Initiative (GPI) started in April this year with seed funding (Euro 707,000) from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS/DML). The GPI is managed by a Steering Committee involving Wetlands International, Alterra, International Peat Society (IPS), International Mires Conservation Group (IMCG) and IUCN-Netherlands Committee. The programme's aim is to support and enhance the participation of countries in transition and developing countries in international conservation and wise use of peatlands. The GPI supports and complements the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP) currently under development by Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP).



The GPI is focused on:

- conservation and restoration of peatlands, and
- integrated development planning of peat-based agriculture, forestry and industry, within an ecosystembased approach.

The GPI is supporting innovative global land-use planning and decision making methods, co-operation between sectors, stakeholder participation, valuation and certification, management auditing systems and the implementation of new approaches to secure wise use of peatlands.

#### **Objectives**

- 1. Support Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Ramsar)
- 2. Support sustainable peatland management.
- Development of guidelines for wise use
- 4. Raise awareness of the functions and values
- 5. Enhance income from public values.
- 6. Promote certification of peatland products
- 7. Grants, especially for countries in development and transition

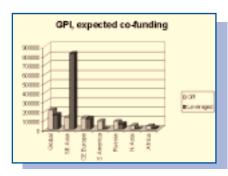
The GPI aims at generating and spending over EUR 30 million in six years. The current seed funding from DGIS is already making a difference.

In response to the announcement of the GPI in April, we have received over 40 project proposals. From these, the GPI Steering Committee has selected 25 projects for support under the current DGIS funding, and a number of other good projects have been put into the pipeline for possible support from future GPI funding. One of the main tasks of the coming months will therefore be further fundraising to develop long-term and sustained sources of financial support for wise use and conservation of peatlands world-wide. The current growing project portfolio will help us to prove to donors that the GPI, through its networks in the peat and mire community, is able to bring together

many useful projects from a great variety of proponents, which will make a difference to society and local communities. The joint projects under the umbrella of the GPI will be able to bring more weight to bear on the global agendas of relevant conventions and international organisations, than if the projects were to be implemented separately.

The charts below provide a quick overview of the funding distribution and the amount of funding that we expect to leverage in co-funding.





The current seed funding is already successfully leveraging over EUR 1.5 million in co-funding, particularly in SE Asia where several projects have already been able to generate strong interest and/or commitments from donors, including CIDA (Canada) and the GEF. We expect this to increase during the course of the projects, both in SE Asia and in other regions where discussions with donors have also started.

So far, GPI money has contributed to several policy development oriented workshops, including the IPS/IMCG workshop in spring this year which resulted in a Joint Statement on Wise Use of Peatlands, thanks to the efforts of many, including Donal

Clarke, Clayton Rubec, Hans Joosten and Jack Rieley, (currently being edited for publication). Some funding went to the Jakarta Workshop on Tropical Peatlands, which has also resulted in a Statement (see http://www.imcg.net - in the IMCG newsletter issue 2001/3). The GPI is now in the process of identifying projects on wise use and certification with major peat industries in Europe. In February, the GPI hopes to be well represented at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting in The Hague in April 2002. We will organise a side-event on the wise use of peatlands, involving the organisations represented in the GPI Steering Committee, as well as many of the organisations which are receiving funding under the current DGIS funding scheme.

Peatland conservation implementation and restoration projects are starting with GPI funding in Belarus, China, Indonesia, Russia (Siberia) and Thailand, just to mention a few. Unfortunately we could not yet provide funding for all the proposed and certainly worthwhile projects such as the Peninsula Mitra in Argentina, Peat Fire Prevention in Malaysia, as

well as some other proposals from China, The Czech Republic, Indonesia, Malaysia, Poland, Slovakia, Vietnam and various regional or global projects. We are very happy however, that we could make a start in Africa thanks to Jan Sliva and Piet-Louis Grundling, and in South America where we are providing support to a project coordinated by Robert Hofstede, compiling existing information on the Paramos (high altitude peatlands). Major activities have started in Russia, through the efforts of Tatiana Minaeva, including a project that will aim at establishing a Ramsar site in Russia's most extensive peatland in the Tomsk region. In Poland activities are underway to assess the problem of abandonment of peatlands by agriculture, which causes a decrease of biodiversity and an increase of carbon emissions in the absence of water control.

Further on the climate and carbon front, there is important work in progress by Harri Vasander and his colleagues in Indonesia. Their research is finding that methane emission is very low in tropical forested bogs. The GPI is part-funding

this research to ensure that this information will be channelled to the appropriate policy platforms in relation to climate change.

The GPI will also contribute some funding for the European Handbook on Mires, but more funding is required for this as is the case for the many proposals which remain as yet unfunded. So further fund-raising for the GPI is becoming increasingly important.

The network is continuously increasing and proposals for useful projects keep coming in. The focus is on clear deliverables in terms of wise use and conservation of peatlands and their role in carbon sequestration, poverty alleviation and environmental security.

For further information or submission of proposals for the GPI-phase 2 pipeline, please contact:

Silvius@wetlands.agro.nl or w.h.diemont@alterra.wag-ur.nl or Ferwerda@NCIUCN.nl or jacl.rieley@lineone.net or tminaeva@wwf.ru





# Wetlands in a **Changing World**Conference Report

Wetlands International 3rd Board of Members Meeting 29 November to 2 December 2001, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Almost 200 wetland experts from 50 countries gathered in Wageningen, The Netherlands to review the operational development of Wetlands International and adopt a new strategy, governance and executive structure that will serve the organization for at least the next 10 years.

On Thursday 29 November, delegates were welcomed to Wageningen by the Mayor of the City of Wageningen. The meeting was formally opened by Giuseppe Raaphorst on behalf of the State Secretary for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Mrs. Geke Faber and welcome statements were grant by representatives of the Ramsar Convention, the Bonn Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and by Wetlands International Partner organisations.







Left to right: Giuseppe Raaphorst, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature
Management and Fisheries. Delmar Blasco, Ramsar Convention
Bureau. Ulf Müller-Helmbrecht, UNEP/CMS Secretariat.

Offering the latest thinking on key global issues impacting upon wetlands, the meeting featured thought provoking keynote speeches from Prof. Rick Leemans (Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) on Wetlands in a Changing World and global changes: land-use, economic and social changes and their influence on wetlands; and from Dr Peter Bridgwater, (Director, Ecological Programs, UNESCO) on Wetlands in a Changing World and biodiversity, habitat and sustainable use.

An extensive workshop programme on Friday 30 November, covering everything from Wetlands and Wise use to Partnership and Training across six Workshops, provided an ideal opportunity for members to contribute fully to the Strategic development process.



The principal message from participants was that Wetlands International should concentrate its attention on its strengths and its special niche, and to build into its Strategy and actions, the key recommendations from each Workshop, as follows:

Wetlands and Wise Use: Promote and champion wetland values and functions for people especially in the global water agenda, develop and promote models of wise use, and the transfer of knowledge between scales of working.

Wetlands and Policies: Wetlands International should strengthen its role as a facilitator and knowledge provider in these processes and translate global policies into practical wetlands conservation on the ground. Wetlands International should set clear priorities in supporting these processes and not act as a consultant or policy developer.

Wetlands biodiversity, inventories, monitoring and assessment: A core business of Wetlands International with emphasis on waterbirds and wetlands resources. Wetlands International should develop expertise, with partners, in other biodiversity issues (e.g. fish). Existing databases should be used more widely to support global policy developments, e.g. climate change; water management.

# Board of Members Meeting - key decisions

**Training:** Focus on training trainers, leading the Ramsar Training Service, implementing regional training programmes, building training into all projects. Base all training on the ecosystem approach while focusing on important sites.

Partnership, Publicity and Communications:
Strengthen and consolidate existing partnerships,
package outputs and achievements more effectively,
while Communication Education and Public
Awareness should be an integral part of all projects.

Wetlands International and treaties: expert input, via agreed workplans, to the technical institutions of conventions, agreements and major policy initiatives, is a high priority; e.g. Ramsar (site database, STRP), CMS (flyways, Scientific Council), CBD (Freshwater Programme, SBSTTA) and other conventions. Facilitate implementation of the conventions on a global, regional and national level.

#### 2002-2005 Strategy

The Board of Members agreed in principle to the draft organisational strategy and accepted the guiding principles and work evaluation criteria as presented at the meeting as follows:

- Build the criteria into a decision tree approach to test the proposed content of the programmes
- Include the criteria into the updated strategy
- Test the workshop outcomes using the criteria
- Reassess the draft objectives and the proposed targets
- Consult the Board of Members on the resulting strategy
- Finalise the outputs by 1 January 2002
- Mandate the BOD to approve the strategy and the programme action plans

#### **Highlights of the Strategy**

The 2002-2005 Strategy covers the triennial period and a further year to ensure continuity, and states that Wetlands International's niche and position depends upon being policy relevant and user needs driven. **Core work priorities are:** 

- the International Waterbird Census, associated data management and supra-national analysis and reporting;
- design and piloting of regional approaches to wetland inventory, monitoring and assessment;
- design of, development and support to a family of regional flyways;
- science-led input to and facilitation of the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

#### Reorganisation

Following consideration of the proposals to adjust the governance and operations of Wetlands International, the Board of Members adopted the following recommendations:

#### **Board of Members**

The Board of Members will be re-constituted to allow this body to become the ultimate strategic and programmatic decision making group.

The Board of Members will determine overall global policy and strategy, and set the level of annual membership dues.

The Board of Directors will draft Rules and Procedures for the Board of Members by 30 April 2002. These will then be circulated for comment to the Board of Members prior to adoption by the Board of Members by postal ballot.

#### **Poster Session**

On Friday 30 November Banrock Wines sponsored the conference poster session. Banrock Station wines, Staatsbosbeheer and Wetlands International are working in the Netherlands on a number of projects - for every bottle of Banrock Station wines sold in the Netherlands through Albert Heijn, a donation is made to the wetlands "De Weerribben" and "De Wieden". These funds are being used to support the continual monitoring and maintenance of 3500 hectares of wetland reserves and their wildlife.

For more information go to: http://www.banrockstation.com.au/eu/wetlands.asp



#### **Board of Directors**

The Board of Members will elect the Board of Directors to represent and manage the organisation. The Board of Directors will be mandated by the Board of Members to appoint new members.

The Board of Directors will be the body that is legally responsible for Wetlands International.

#### **Regional Councils**

To streamline the decision-making process the Board of Members decided to accept the decision of the Regional Councils of The Americas, Africa Europe Middle East and Asia Pacific to close their operational legal status. Governance and day to day management responsibility will be transferred to the Board of Directors.

#### **Advisory Panels**

The Board of Members decided to adopt the concept of Advisory panels to assist the Board in running specific areas of work. The Board of Members decided to establish a Wetlands International Waterbird Advisory Panel.

#### **President**

The Board of Members elected Max Finlayson as the new President of Wetlands International.

#### Executive

Through the International Director all Wetlands International staff will now be accountable to the Board of Members through the Board of Directors. Further information on internal organisation will be communicated via the web and a full report on the internal organisation of Wetlands International will appear in the next issues of Wetlands.

# New Board of Directors 2002-2004 2002-2004

#### The following people were elected to the new Board of Directors:

#### **Erneste Eduardo Briones**

Coordinator Proyecto Humedales Fundación EcoCiencia Ecuador

#### Kevin Erwin

President/Principal Ecologist Kevin L. Erwin Consulting Ecologists Inc. United States of America

#### Max Finlayson (President)

Director Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist (ERISS) Australia

#### **Chris Gordon**

Interim Director Centre for African Wetlands Ghana

#### Munjurul H. Khan

Programme Coordinator National Conservation Strategy Implementation Project Ministry of Environment & Forest Bangladesh, P.R.

Giuseppe Raaphorst (permanent observer of the host country)
Director, Department of Nature
Management, Ministry of Agriculture,
Nature Management and Fisheries

#### Daizaburo Kuroda

Director
Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation
Bureau
Ministry of the Environment
Japan

#### James Kushlan

United States of America

Senior Science Advisor
US Geological Survey
Smithsonian Environmental Research
Center

#### Luis Naranjo

Northern Andes Ecoregional Coordinator World WildLife Fund Colombia

#### Stefan Pihl

National Environmental Research Institute Denmark

#### **Christine Prietto**

Chair of
The Shortland Wetlands Centre Australia
Australia

### Stew Morrison (Chair of the Board of

Directors) Bahamas

#### lin Puchun

Administrative Director General International Forestry Co-operation Center State Forestry Administration China, PR of

#### Victor Pulido

Wetlands of Peru Programme

#### Alison Russell French

Assistant Secretary, Coast & Clean Seas Branch, Marine Group, Environment Australia, Australia

#### Jean-Paul Taris

Director General Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat France

#### Tatsuichi Tsujii

President of Wetlands International - Japan Japan

#### **Dave Pritchard**

International Treaties Adviser
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
(RSPB)
United Kingdom

#### **New President**

#### Max Finlayson

Max Finlayson has been appointed as President of Wetlands International.

Max has the dual roles of Director, Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist, and Director, National Centre for Tropical Wetland Research, in Darwin, Australia. His current interests centre on developing procedures for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring, as well as climate change and wetlands, involving local communities in wetland programs, and seeks to close the enormous communication gaps that can exist between wetland researchers, managers and conservationists. In addition he is a member of the Ramsar STRP and enjoys promoting wetland issues within other international initiatives and agreements. And he stills enjoys having his feet in the wetlands - even when the leeches nibble delicately.

#### **Chairman of the Board of Directors**

#### **Stew Morrison**

Stew Morrison has been appointed as Chairman of the new Board of Directors. From 1969-1995 Stew was Executive Vice



President of Ducks Unlimited Canada where he was responsible for a budget that grew to 70 million dollars Canadian. For the last 2 years Stew has overseen the reorganisation of Wetlands Internationals activities in the Americas region and played a lead role in promoting the recent global changes of Wetlands International.

#### **Chris Kalden**

Chris Kalden was appointed as President of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau in 1992 in St Petersburg Florida and after 9 years of dedicated service to both IWRB and Wetlands International Chris has handed over the reigns of President to Max Finlayson. Chris played a major role in the creation of Wetlands International in 1995 and in the past 2 years he has provided the leadership, drive and energy to persuade the many different stakeholder groups that governance and executive change was vital for the future success of the organization. This has taken hard work, dedication and courage and the decisions taken at the Board of Members meeting are a fitting tribute to his excellent negotiation skills and sense of the achievable.

Chris's commitment to wetlands conservation will ensure that he keeps close contacts with Wetlands International. On behalf of the Wetlands International network we wish him all the best in the future.



Chris Kalden receiving an aboriginal bark painting as a farewell gift.

As Chairman of the Board Stew's role will be to lead the Board and ensure adequate oversight of Wetlands International work between Board of Members meetings. Whilst not working as a volunteer for Wetlands International he spends his time fishing and serving on the National Ramsar Committee in the Bahamas.

#### Acknowledgements

We thank the Government of the Netherlands for hosting the 3rd meeting of the Board of Wetlands International and also extend our thanks to the following sponsors:

#### **Australia**

Environment Australia, Department of the Environment and Heritage

#### Belgium

Ministry of the Flemish Community, Department for Nature

#### Denmark

Nature and Forest Agency

#### Norway

Ministry of Environment
Directorate for Nature Management

#### Sweden

**Environmental Protection Agency** 

#### The Netherlands

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries Municipality of Wageningen

The Convention on Migratory Species

The Africa Eurasia Waterbird Agreement Secretariat

In the next issue of Wetlands a full report on internal organizational structures will be provided.

### News from around Wetlands International

# Russia: Training Course on Conservation and Management of Wetlands



The Training Course on Conservation and Management of Wetlands was organised by the Wetlands International-Russia Programme and held in Moscow from 10 to 19 May 2001. The Course included lectures, interactive workshops, group work, an educational game, field excursions to wetlands in the Cranes' Homeland area, and compilation of draft management plans for wetland sites selected by participants. The course was attended by 12 people from 9 administrative regions of the Russian Federation. These were selected from 45 applicants by a commission established for this purpose in consultation with the Wetlands International Russia Programme Council. The selection proved to be successful, as all participants showed great interest in wetlands, and eagerness to study and discuss management issues within their groups. They had wide knowledge and experience in wetland conservation, allowing the educational

The participants visited the Cranes' Homeland wetland area, which provides very challenging management opportunities. The area combines 15 areas of different protection status, unprotected natural areas (including 5 areas proposed for protection), agricultural fields and meadows, villages, and various water bodies. The area is highly populated and is threatened by many human activities. The management of this area is provided by the Administration of Protected Natural Areas, an organization which was established as an NGO, and later received the status of a state conservation body under the Taldom District Administration.

process to be interactive.

During the course, participants

compiled draft management plans for their sites, with goals, operational objectives and actions as discussed within the groups. These plans were presented on the last day of the course.

Contact: IKamennova@wwf.ru

#### **Niger Basin Initiative (NBI)**

An exciting new development is the Niger Basin Initiative (NBI), a collaboration between Wetlands International, WWF and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, for promoting basin-wide conservation and sustainable development. Preliminary maps have already been produced, and the inter-state Niger Basin Authority has accepted the NBI as a valuable partner. A second phase to the Community Wetlands Initiatives project is underway with continued support from the British Embassy in Senegal: the project has been extended from Senegal to include Mali and Guinea-Bissau. The major sub-regional capacity-building project financed by The Netherlands is being consolidated, and a range of publications, including training modules and a wetland games guide are underway. Relationships are being strengthened with local embassies in Senegal, which will hopefully lead to new projects in Senegal and Cape Verde in 2002.

Contact: timwet@telecomplus.sn

#### **Tim Dodman and Dakar Staff Changes**



Tim Dodman recently left Dakar, but continues in his role as Africa Programme Development Officer from a UK base. Hilaire Béïbro (Waterbird Officer) of Côte d'Ivoire and Yolande Pereira (Administrator) of Senegal left the programme in April/May, and were replaced respectively by Emmanuel Williams of Sierra Leone and Joy Sambe of Nigeria. We thank Hilaire and Yolande for their important inputs to the programme and wish them luck in their new endeavours. We welcome Joy to the team.

#### **Guinea-Bissau**

Wetlands International launched a new project in Guinea-Bissau in July 2000, with support from the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. The project focuses on the Bijagos Archipelago, one of the most important wetland areas of coastal West Africa. This site is twinned with Europe's Wadden Sea.



Activities to date include extensive waterbird and Important Bird Area surveys, network development, a public awareness campaign and training in fieldwork and database management. The key national government partner, the Coastal Planning Office, hosts a small project office, staffed by Joãozinho Sá and José Fernandez, both nationals of Guinea-Bissau. Preliminary results of a complete survey of the Bijagos suggest that the area supports around 1 million migratory waders. The Bijagos is also a key site for the West African manatee and Atlantic humpbacked dolphin. The archipelago forms a vital link in a chain of coastal sites supporting the important West African fishery.

Contact: timwet@telecomplus.sn

# A Contribution to Management of Wetlands and Waterbirds in the Inner Niger Delta, Mali

The first phase of the project 'A Contribution to Management of Wetlands and Waterbirds in the Inner Niger Delta, Mali supported by The Netherlands, comes to an end in December 2001. However, a second phase proposal for initiating a programme on Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Development of Wetlands in Mali has been prepared with local and international partners, and funds for this are currently being sought. The first phase has produced some important results, including capacity development through a training programme in which more than 60 participants have taken part. A training manual and educational

### News from around Wetlands International

material for schools is currently in preparation. Some important ecological and economic relationships have been established, especially in relation to hunting, the feeding ecology of waterbirds and the socioeconomics of natural resources. Further integrated research has focused on waterbird monitoring linked to flooding levels and investigating relationships between flood levels, extent of flood and food production. Results have also enabled a useful analysis of the impact of Markala and Selingue dams on the extent of inundation, and thus on fish production.

Contact: malipin@afribone.net.ml

# Two New Black Sea Programme Projects Approved

Two projects submitted by the Black Sea Programme of Wetlands International to the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries have recently been approved.

The first project, "River Network Ukraine", is a logical follow up of the "Small Rivers Ukraine" project successfully completed by the Black Sea office of Wetlands International. The new project focuses on supporting the local organisations/members of the Ukrainian River Network (URN) to enhance the collaboration between GOs and NGOs: to enhance intersectoral co-operation (e.g. agriculture - nature), to restore nature, to raise awareness and to promote environmental education and public participation in the protection of rivers and river monitoring.

The long term objective of the project is to conserve and sustainably develop small rivers and streams throughout Ukraine to secure the future well-being of Ukraine's most important source of drinking water.

The following activities will be carried out in the framework of the project:

- implementation of small local projects;
- the holding of the final workshop on small local projects;
- issuing and dissemination of the overview of these projects results and best cases;
- regular updating the web-site of the Ukrainian River Network;

- the holding of annual meetings of the Ukrainian River Network;
- establishment of a Joint River Network with bordering countries;
   and
- the running of training courses for key representatives of the Ukrainian River Network.



The purpose of the second project, "Towards integrated management planning for the Sivash in Ukraine", is to establish an integrated management system for the entire Sivash - the largest united lagoon system in Europe - and to support the sustainable development of the local economy.

Expected outputs of this project are as follows:

- surveys on the land and water usage of different sectors, and their environmental problems;
- an intersectoral workshop to devise integrated solutions for environmental problems and winwin scenarios for the different sectors;
- analysis of the distribution, numbers and status of different taxonomic groups of plants and animals;
- production of GIS-based electronic maps;
- a general report on the zonation of Sivash;
- an intersectoral workshop where the draft zonation report will be discussed:
- the establishment of a web-site with information on Sivash;
- issuing a list of key publications on the Sivash; and
- the development and dissemination of a brochure and posters on Sivash and the integrated management approach.

Contact: Vasiliy Kostyushin kost@necu.freenet.kiev.ua

# Ukrainian River Network: First Workshop

The First Workshop of the Ukrainian River Network (URN) -- a national association of NGOs working on river protection -- took place on the 27-30 June 2001. It was organised by the School Geographical Society "The Planet" (Zhytomyr Oblast), the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine and the Black Sea Programme of Wetlands International with the financial support of Wetlands International and ISAR-Kyiv. The meeting was carried out in the field, on the picturesque bank of the small river Bystryivka in the Zhytomyr Oblast. Forty-five representatives of environmental NGOs from 17 administrative regions of Ukraine participated.



Discussions focussed on activities of the URN working groups and URN members, prospects for integration of the URN (5 working groups, 53 NGOs) into Pan-European processes including preparation for the 5th Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Kiev-2003). The main output was the approval of the 2001-2002 URN Work Plan with objectives for every URN member and each working group. Participants made a decision to list threatened rivers and to develop a relevant methodological approach for preparing the list. They discussed URN proposals to the Draft National Governmental Programme for Support of Environmental NGOs. An appeal to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine protesting the completion of the Tashlyk Hydro Accumulating Power Station and the filling of the Olexandrivske Water Reservoir on the Pivdenny Bug River was adopted.

Contact: kost@necu.freenet.kiev.ua

### News from around Wetlands International

# Wetland management planning in Iran

Wetlands International recently signed an extension of the contract with the FAO concerning the Environmental Component of the Irrigation Improvement Project in Iran. This World Bank funded project is focusing on preparing the first management plans ever for two Ramsar wetland systems in Iran. These sites are Lake Urumiah in the northwest, and Shadegan Marsh, which is fed by rivers including the Tigris, on the Persian Gulf. The management plans are drafted in consultation with the stakeholders, including the local communities. The international consultant Dr. Michael Moser supervises the project implementation for Wetlands International.

For further information you can contact: Dr. Michael Moser at mikemoser@supanet.com

#### **Japan Wetland Review**

In Japan, the Ministry of the Environment and Wetlands International Japan have been reviewing and listing the current situation of wetlands throughout the country and coordinating with a panel of experts in a wide range of fields. The panel of 22 experts, including specialists on seagrass/seaweed beds, coral, birds, freshwater fish, insects and benthos, drew up the list using criteria based on the Ramsar Criteria for Wetlands of International Importance.



Through assessing interaction and relationships between flora and fauna within wetland ecosystems or within a capturing area, 500 important wetlands have been selected and listed.

Contact: wijp@t3.rim.or.jp

#### Developing Community-based Ecotourism for the Indigenous Semelai Community in the Tasek Bera, Pahang Ramsar Site

This community development project was proposed to the United Nations Development Fund-Global Environmental Facility's-Small Grants Program (UNDP-GEF-SGP) by the Wetlands International Malaysia Programme for the indigenous people of Tasek Bera, the Semelai tribe. Tasek Bera is the largest freshwater swamp and lake in Peninsular Malaysia and was declared as Malaysia's first Ramsar site in 1997.



The 18-month project aims to empower the Semelai community of Tasek Bera with the necessary skills to run their own ecotourism business so as to benefit themselves economically. It is also expected that Tasek Bera will be conserved through the efforts of this project and through locally run initiatives by and with the Semelai people in partnership with the Semelai Association of Boating & Tourism (SABOT) and the management authorities of the Ramsar site.

The project benefits from much support from media groups. However, additional funding to extend the benefits of this project is still required. Therefore, sponsorship in cash or in kind is most welcome. Computers and training are needed to equip the Semelai with IT skills, while outdoor equipment such as canoes, kayaks, and mountain bikes for implementing ecotourism as well as a project vehicle to ferry tourists around are needed. Contact: Badrul Huzaimi

Email: badrul\_h@hotmail.com

# Asian Wetland Symposium 2001 bringing partnerships into good wetland practices

The Asian Wetland Symposium 2001 held from 27-30 August 2001 in Penang, Malaysia was a grand success. The Symposium was inaugurated by Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding, the Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment of Malaysia (MOSTE). It was jointly organised by Universiti Sains Malaysia, MOSTE, Ramsar Center Japan and Wetlands International. Generous financial support was received from the Aeon Group Environmental Foundation, Japan, Keindanren Nature Conservation Fund, Japan and the four organisers.

The Symposium was aimed at highlighting and encouraging partnerships into good wetland practices. About 350 participants from 37 countries benefited from 268 oral presentations and posters that covered wide-ranging topics including: Strategic partnership and good practice of wetland conservation and management; public awareness, training and education: wetland biodiversity, policies and laws; empowering local communities including indigenous people and stakeholders in wetland management; climate change; women and wetlands; and achieving waterbird and wetland conservation. The presentations are being edited into a set of proceedings to be available in mid 2002.



The Symposium ended on a high note with the endorsement of the "Penang Statement". Judging from the well-received presentations and discussions, it was heartening to note that Wetlands International and its work is well regarded and appreciated throughout the region.

#### Young Bamboo Bends Easily

Wetlands International Thailand Programme has been awarded funds by the British Embassy in Bangkok to develop a Wetlands Education Kit for use in primary schools in the Thale Noi area of southern Thailand.



This area has been selected as it lies within the first Ramsar site nominated in Thailand - Kuan Kee Sian. The purpose of the kit is to raise the

awareness, at an early age, of the values and importance of the wetlands in Thailand. This will be done by informal education in parallel with the current education system in Thailand. The kit will contain the following items: Student and Teacher notes, a video of the sights and sounds of Thale Noi, a board game and posters describing the fauna and flora in the Thale Noi Non Hunting Area.

Based on the Wetlands Education Kit designed by Wetlands International - Malaysia Programme, the Thailand version will emphasise the value and benefits of wetlands. School children will also learn about the cultural significance of wetlands. It is envisaged that monks will teach portions either in schools or in nearby monasteries and Wats. The outputs

and outcomes of the project will include:

- the production of a targeted educational tool focusing on a specific wetlands inThailand.
- a marked increase in the children's understanding and knowledge of the benefits and values of wetlands resources.
- increased emphasis in the classroom on the importance of wetlands, especially in the context of natural processes such as the water cycle, weather, cultural significance and biodiversity.

The kit will be launched in Thale Noi soon after World Wetlands Day on February 2nd 2002.

Contact: sasae@ratree.psu.ac.th

# Concerted actions for the management and conservation of the Ruddy-headed Goose (Chloephaga rubidiceps) in Chile and Argentina

Following approval by the CMS Scientific Council in accordance with the mandate granted by the Conference of the Parties, and relating to the implementation of concerted actions for the management and conservation of the Ruddy-headed Goose (Chloephaga rubidiceps) in Chile and Argentina. This project will be implemented by Wetlands International, and will be based on the recommendations of the recently published "Manual for the Ruddy-headed Goose conservation in Argentina and Chile, available for download at

http://www.wetlands.org/projects/RHGannounce.htm



The objectives of this project are: 1) to protect the unique nesting area of the Ruddy-headed Goose known in San Juan, mainland Chile, 2) to estimate the species population size and brood rearing success for comparison with data obtained in previous years and to find new nesting sites, 3) to improve the breeding success of the species in San Gregorio, 4) to fine tune the wintering distribution of the species and to study its habitat use, with the purpose of implementing specific conservation measures in cooperation with the government of the Buenos Aires province, 5) to reinforce

the Ruddy-headed Goose network of volunteers, 6) to improve the knowledge of the farmers, rural populations and the general public about the species conservation needs, in cooperation with national and provincial authorities of Chile and Argentina, and 7) to contribute to the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Ruddy-headed Goose conservation, between Chile and Argentina.

The proposed activities are: 1) installation of a fence to protect the unique Ruddy-headed Goose nesting place from humans and foxes, 2) preparation of informative materials about this new protected area, 3) survey the whole breeding areas in Chile, 4) development of a water management plan for San Gregorio, 5) survey the whole wintering areas in Argentina, 6) development of an E-mail network of volunteer, 7) information and education, and 8) technical support to the Memorandum of Understanding.

For more information contact:
Daniel Blanco: dblanco@wamani.apc.org

#### **NEW PUBLICATION**

Wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring: Practical techniques and identification of major issues. CM Finlayson, NC Davidson & NJ Stevenson (editors)

Proceedings of Workshop 4 at the 2nd International Conference on Wetlands and Development, Dakar, Senegal, 8-14 November 1998

The aims of this workshop, held as a part of the 2nd International Conference on Wetlands and Development (Dakar, Senegal, 10.14 November 1998) were to review past and current projects, and to develop recommendations for further implementation of wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring.



The main objectives were to:

- promote the inventory, assessment and monitoring of wetlands, through discussion of practical approaches, methodologies and techniques:
- identify the working tools needed to improve delivery of wetland inventory and assessment; and
- identify priorities for wetland inventory and assessment in support of biodiversity conservation in Africa.

This publication contains 15 comprehensive papers on inventory issues ranging from overviews at a global scale, practical inventory techniques, national case studies and proposed classification systems for National Wetland Inventories.

The publication is available from:

The Office of the Supervising Scientist Environment Australia GPO Box 461, Darwin NT 0801 Australia publications@eriss.erin.gov.au

Publication can also be viewed on line at www.wetlands.org

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# **News** from the **Specialist** Groups

In November 2000 the Seaduck SG held it's first meeting since the informal meeting during Anatidae 2000 in Strasbourg 1994. The gathering in 2000 took place at Fuglsø in Denmark and was attended by about 50 people. It was divided into a meeting of the group, a major workshop on Scoters and an evening workshop on Steller's Eider, All of wich proved to be a great success.

Stefan Pihl and Tony Fox

During the members meeting, an update of recent and future activities was given and discussed. Peter Cranswick, UK, promised to edit the Seaduck Bulletin after the next issue and Antra Stipniece, Latvia, took over the maintaining of the member's list.

The scoter workshop represented the first ever gathering of scoter experts from around the globe and confirmed the substantial lack of knowledge relating to the species! Nevertheless, an impressive amount of information was presented, which enabled the compilation of an overall picture of what was happening throughout the Western Palearctic flyways. Important contributions were forthcoming on studies of the breeding biology of Common and Velvet Scoters in Europe and we were especially pleased to have Jean-Pierre Savard from Canadian Wildlife Service to offer a transatlantic perspective. The great strength of the gathering was that it enabled the instantaneous feedback from experts from various sites along the flyway regarding the current real and perceived threats to the populations. All agreed that the continued increase in ship traffic and infrastructure development in the shallow offshore environment posed the most significant threats in the Western Palearctic. There was also agreement that the most pressing research needs relate to improving our understanding of linkage between different breeding, moulting,

linkage between staging and wintering areas. Although we were able to synthesise a simple overview of the major important staging, moulting and wintering sites, in the absence



of ringing data, we know nothing about how birds use these different areas. The delegates were extremely positive about the production of a set of proceedings from the meeting, and 34 written contributions have been received and are presently being prepared for publication as a record of this very important meeting.

The idea of the Steller's Eider evening workshop was, if possible, to set up Steller's Eider working group to implement the Steller's Eider action plan and maintain the existing network of experts. As a first step an e-group was formed with Diana Solovieva, Russia, as co-ordinator and Baz Hughes, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, UK, kindly offered to set up the list server while Umberto Gallo-Orsi will be the link to BirdLife International and its partners.

The list server is open to anybody interested in Steller's Eider. To enlist please write to Majordomo@wwt.org.uk with "subscribe stellers" (without quotes) in the body of your email message. A great deal of interesting news has already been forwarded through the list server, most notably the recent results of the satellite telemetry project which has given indications of a major moulting site for West Siberian birds along the southeastern shores of Novaya Zemlya.

During the workshop it was agreed to have regular meetings in the group. The next meeting will take place in Estonia in April 2002 when the overall theme will be Eiders and the reasons for the recent rapid declines in the Baltic population. Detailed information about the workshop is presented on the Seaduck homepage:

http://www.dmu.dk/1\_Om\_DMU/2\_afdelinger/3 kyst/4 international/5 seaduck/index.html

#### **Pelican Specialist Group**

Alain Crivelli and Daniel Anderson

As well as providing technical reviews of project proposals under the Netherlands-supported global wise use of wetlands programme of Wetlands International, the Group is busy organizing a symposium on the biology and status of American white pelicans, to be held at the Pacific Seabird Group meeting in Santa Barbara, 20-24 February

We hope to publish the proceedings soon afterward. Also new studies of the brown pelican in Mexico are underway. Further information on the American white pelican meeting can be found at the following website: www.pacificseabirdgroup.org http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org/

# Wetland Inventory & Monitoring Specialist Group

Max Finlayson

The main activity in recent weeks has been the drafting of the Ramsar wetland inventory framework for initial tabling at the next Ramsar Standing Committee meeting as a lead up to CoP8 in November 2001. Discussions on inventory and the framework have been held at Ramsar regional meetings in Europe and Asia. The framework has received comments from many people and is nearing its "final" draft form. The Asian Wetland Inventory is a direct response to a resolution on inventory at Ramsar CoP7 and is being coordinated through the WI-Asia Pacific office in Kuala Lumpur with support from WI-Japan and others. Presentations on the AWI have been made at wetland meetings in Penang and Kushiro and others are planned. The draft manual for AWI is under revision and, importantly, we have been discussing implementation with a number of countries. supra-regional organisations, and individuals. We have also succeeded in achieving the final stages of editing the proceedings from the Dakar, Senegal, workshop on wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring. And we are working on a new database of members.

# Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills Malcolm Coulter

Oriental Crested Ibis. The population is up from 7 birds in 1981 to over 150 in the wild in Shanxi Province, China, and over 150 in captivity. A reintroduction program is being considered.

Blackfaced Spoonbill. The population is up from about 200-250 in the 1980's to over 800 at present. There is a good network throughout the Asian region including many organisations. One new push is for conservation and research in the breeding areas in the Koreas.

Giant Ibis. Recently, a new population was discovered in the north of Cambodia. The population may be as many as 80+ birds but this needs to be established.

#### Diver/Loon Specialist Group Joseph Kerekes

The primary objective of the Diver/Loon Specialist Group is to facilitate communication among loon researchers, educators, conservationists and to develop a co-operative network of persons interested in loon preservation world wide. The Directory of the Diver/Loon Specialist Group lists over 130 names in 15 countries
http://www.briloon.org/Diver.html). The
Directory includes the name, address and
research/management interest of individuals
who returned a completed registration form to
the coordinator.

Scientific workshops with the published proceedings or abstract are the major media of communication among members of the D/L Specialist Group. The extended abstracts of the most recent gathering, the International Loon Seminar, Viskadalen, Sweden, August 1999 were published in the D/L SG Newsletter #3, (http://www.briloon.org/Diver.html). The next scientific meeting is scheduled in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada, August 2003 (http://glinks.ucs.mun.ca/lw/).

The Diver/Loon SG reaches several thousand persons involved in loon monitoring and protection activities trough a close contact with the North American Loon Fund (http://facstaff.uww.edu/wentzl/nalf/analfhom), an umbrella organization of regional loon preservation groups in the USA and Canada.

#### Herby Kalchreuter - thanks and a welcome

With the stepping down of Herby Kalchreuter from the leadership of the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group, the end of an era has come. Herby (Prof. Dr Heribert Kalchreuter, European Wildlife Research Institute, Germany), led this small but active and highly focused research group for 23 years since 1979. The Specialist Group was unique in

bridging the obvious gap between protection and hunting interests in that sustainable use principles were strongly adhered to by Herby. The annual Newsletter of the Group, aimed at the 100 or so members of the Group, contained many articles on conservation biology of woodcock and snipe.

In addition, his many books and articles, and in particular, the excellent Proceedings of the Fifth Woodcock and Snipe Workshop, published in 2000, did much to advance the practical cooperation between hunters and conservation specialists. Herby is succeeded by Dr Yves Ferrand, (Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage, France) who we warmly welcome to the family of Specialist Group Coordinators.

# International Wader Study Group 2000 & 2001

David Stroud (International Wader Study Group Liaison Officer)

The International Wader Study Group has continued its broad-based programme of activities. The Group is managed by a 20 member Executive Committee, and has a membership of about 600 across the world. It maintains an active publication programme, publishing three Bulletins a year, each of about 60 pages in length. These include a wide range of topical content as well as many preliminary and other research papers, as well as reviews and other material relating to the Group's activities.

Annual Conferences were held in Norwich, UK in September 2000, and in northern Netherlands in August 2001. About 160 persons attended the latter meeting - the largest meeting yet. One-day workshops were held alongside the meetings, focussing on Global climate change - understanding and predicting the effects on waders (2000), and on the ecology and conservation of breeding waders on European farmland (2001).

The Group also publishes an occasional series called International Wader Studies. A number of IWS volumes are in varying stages of preparation, including:

- Population dynamics of European Avocets Recurvirostra avosetta (results from a WSG workshop in 2000)
- The migration ecology of Curlew Sandpipers Calidris ferruginea
   Breeding waders in Europe 2000 new national population totals
- Results of the 1988 European non-estuarine waterbird survey

A number of international projects are co-ordinated under the auspices of the WSG. These include:

 Tringa glareola 2000 - an international survey of the migration of Wood Sandpipers (1995 onwards)  A co-ordinated survey of spring migration of Ruff Philomachus pugnax through Europe (1998 & 2001)

Through its Colour-Marking Register, the Group maintains international co-ordination (within the African-Eurasian flyways) of this important activity.

The publication of the second and third annual newsletters of the International Arctic Birds Breeding Conditions Survey - a WSG project co-ordinated from Moscow with financial assistance of Wetlands International. These newsletters summarise circumpolar breeding conditions in 1999 and 2000 and present a wealth of other contextual information - also available via the project website: www.arcticbirds.ru.

Other major continuing projects include the preparation of an African-Eurasian flyway atlas for waders (with funding from Wetlands International), and the revision of international population estimates for migratory waders in African-Eurasia. A major paper: 'Estimates of migratory wader populations wintering in the African-Eurasian region in the 1990s' is under preparation, with publication anticipated in 2002. It will revise population estimates and 1% thresholds for a large number of populations within the region, and draws data and information from a variety of sources, including workshops organised by WSG in Belgium (1996) and in Hungary (1998).

In 2001, the Group established a significant web-presence with a web-site hosted by the Avian Demography Unit of the University of Cape Town (www.waderstudygroup.org). The site already holds a variety of information related to WSG activity and will be the focus of continuing development.