29 October 2026

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Invitation to join the Global Waterbird Estimates Partnership (GWEP) as a Partner

On behalf of the Global Waterbird Estimates Partnership (GWEP), we are pleased to invite your organisation to join the Partnership as a GWEP Partner in a voluntary capacity. Established by the 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands through Resolution XV.11, the GWEP provides a long-term international framework for coordinating the updating and provision of Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE). Further details about the Partnership and the role of Partner are available in the Terms of Reference in Annex 1 of Standing Committee 67 Doc.21 Rev.1 'Update on the Global Waterbird Estimates Partnership (GWEP)'.

The role of the GWEP is to ensure that reliable, up-to-date information on waterbird population sizes and trends is scientifically robust, standardised and accessible for policy, conservation and management. The aim is to develop a Partnership which brings together Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands or relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, International Organisation Partners of the Convention on Wetlands, flyway agreements and partnerships, and other stakeholders to strengthen cooperation, align assessment processes, maintain common data standards, build capacity and secure sustainable financing for the 2027 edition of the WPE (WPE 2027) and subsequent WPE editions. An indicative list of potential GWEP Partners is provided in Annex 1 – noting that this is not exhaustive but is included to provide a guide on GWEP membership.

As a GWEP Partner, your organisation would be expected to:

- endorse and support the objectives of GWEP and participate in the Partnership in a constructive and collaborative manner;
- maintain engagement with the GWEP Steering Committee, the GWEP Secretariat and the wider Partnership, and raise matters for the consideration of the Steering Committee, as necessary;
- help identify and provide relevant data to facilitate the integration of locally collected data and knowledge into WPE updates;
- support efforts on resource mobilisation for GWEP-related outputs;
- declare any potential conflicts of interest and uphold the impartiality and credibility of the Partnership; and
- participate in GWEP activities in a pro bono capacity (technical expertise, analysis) as a valuable contribution to this global conservation initiative.

We would be grateful to receive written confirmation that your organisation wishes to join GWEP, together with the names, titles and contact details of principal and alternate focal points. A short indication of the areas in which your organisation would be willing to contribute to the WPE2027 and beyond would also be helpful and much welcomed.

Please send your response by 20 November 2026 to GWEP@wetlands.org. The GWEP Secretariat, hosted by Wetlands International, will maintain the formal list of Partners and provide further information on engagement in the Partnership in due course.

We also note that a separate but linked process is underway to establish the membership of the Steering Committee of GWEP. The Steering Committee will consist of up to 8 permanent members and up to 4 fixed term members (the latter to cover each WPE period). A call for nominations to fill each of the 4 fixed term positions[1] is now open (separate correspondence). Fixed term members will be selected as per the process described in the GWEP's Terms of Reference.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Konijn
GWEP Secretariat
Hosted by Wetlands International

[1] Nominations can be received from GWEP members i.e. Contracting Parties, International Organisation Partners (IOPs), representatives of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, flyway agreements and partnerships, or other related processes, and individual experts with relevant waterbird knowledge.

Annex 1: Indicative list of potential GWEP Partners

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
BirdLife International
BirdsCaribbean
Initiative for the Central Asian Flyway (to be established)
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna / Arctic Council
Contracting Parties of MEAs
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)
European Bird Census Council
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
International Water Management Institute
North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)
Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative
Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)
Wetlands International
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)