

African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership

Robust data for effective waterbird conservation



Migratory waterbirds are culturally and economically important, but vulnerable to habitat loss, overexploitation and other pressures. Countries along their flyways have a shared responsibility for sustainable management of their populations. Through the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership, Wetlands International and partners support science-based decision-making to help countries meet their AEWA commitments to waterbird conservation.

Migratory waterbirds can be easily overexploited if their utilisation and their habitats are not managed well along the flyways. Good management needs good data for informed decision-making. Only 5% of population size estimates are based on sufficient census data, and population trend estimates are poor or not possible for 82% of birds, according to the latest Conservation Status Review of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).

- Capacity of national monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds is established, maintained and further developed.

What does the Partnership do?

AEWA aims to increase by 50% waterbird populations whose conservation status assessments are based on regular monitoring by 2017. The Partnership supports this through:

Generating population size and trend estimates – the basis of status assessments. The Partnership focuses on collecting data from the non-breeding season through the **International Waterbird Census (IWC)** and related schemes which complement the breeding season data from the European Bird Census Council and BirdLife International and others.

The waterbird monitoring programme consists of the following components:

- **Data management** – collating and aggregating the data for international analyses from the existing national schemes;
- **Flyway level coordination** – facilitating the work of the partners and providing overall technical guidance to the network;
- **Capacity building** – increasing the capacity of national networks;
- **Small grants** – supporting counts in developing countries to ensure that selected key sites are regularly covered even in countries with insufficient resources;
- **Special counts** – for populations or sites not covered by the basic IWC counts, such as:
 - wintering seaducks and waterbirds on sea,
 - geese and swans,
 - waders in farmlands,
 - complex and large coastal tidal sites in Africa and the Middle East.



The Waterbird Monitoring Partnership

Wetlands International has led the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership, a coalition of 80+ organisations linked to waterbird monitoring and management, since 2011. The Partnership supports the monitoring targets in the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017:

- Necessary resources are in place to support international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment on a long-term-basis;

The data gathered by the Partnership is made accessible through various information services such as the AEWA Conservation Status Reports, the Waterbird Population Estimates and the Critical Site Network Tool. In addition, they are used to measure various indicators of effectiveness in the AEWA Strategic Plan and to investigate the causes of population changes.

Collaborating organisations

The Partnership consists of:

- National agencies responsible for the management of waterbird populations;
- Over 80 organisations that coordinate the International Waterbird Census nationally;
- Representatives of 14 Wetlands International/IUCN SSC Specialist Groups;
- Representatives of Members of Wetlands International;
- Organisations that coordinate complementary monitoring schemes or capacity building programmes.

The Strategic Working Group that steers the Partnership is made up of:

- African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Secretariat
- BirdLife International
- British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
- European Bird Census Council (EBCC)
- Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE)
- National Hunting and Wildlife Agency of France (ONCFS)
- Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)
- SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology
- Tour du Valat Biological Station
- Wetlands International
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)

For information on general issues of waterbird monitoring in the African-Eurasian flyway, contact:

Dr. Szabolcs Nagy

Tel.: +31 318660935

E-mail: Szabolcs.Nagy@wetlands.org

For information concerning data, contact:

Mr. Tom Langendoen

Tel.: +31 318660921

E-mail: tom.langendoen@wetlands.org

For capacity building in Sub-Saharan Africa, contact:

Mr. Abdoulaye N'Diaye

Tel.: +221 338691681

E-mail: andiaye@wetlands-africa.org

For capacity building in the Mediterranean, contact:

Dr. Olivier Devineau

Tel.: +33 490972950

E-mail: devineau@tourduvalat.org

For information on Special Geese Counts, contact:

Dr. Tony Fox

Tel.: +45 89201505

E-mail: tfo@dmu.dk

For information on special counts on seabirds and other waterbirds at sea, contact:

Mr. Richard Hearn

Tel.: +44 1453891185

E-mail: Richard.Hearn@wwt.org.uk

For information on special counts at complex and large coastal sites in Africa and Middle-East, contact:

Mr. Marc van Roomen

Tel.: +31 247410410

E-mail: Marc.vanRoomen@sovon.nl

List of national waterbird census coordinators:

<http://www.wetlands.org/AEWCcoordinators>

The latest African-Eurasian Waterbird Census news, events, actions and publications:

<http://www.wetlands.org/AEWCnewsandoutputs>

STAY IN TOUCH

Receive our news: www.wetlands.org/WetlandsInt

Follow us on Twitter: WetlandsInt

www.twitter.com/wetlandsint

Watch our videos on YouTube: WetlandsInt

www.youtube.com/user/wetlandsint

For more information: www.wetlands.org /

post@wetlands.org

The work of the partnership is made possible with support from the MAVA Foundation and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment.

