

REVIEW AND
PERSPECTIVES

PHASE 1
2013-2015

TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT TO THE AEW AFRICAN INITIATIVE



The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (**AEWA**) is an intergovernmental treaty drawn up under the aegis of the Convention on Migratory Species (**CMS**), and managed by the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**). It fosters international cooperation between the Parties to the Convention for the better conservation and management of 255 migratory waterbird species and their habitats in Africa and Eurasia. The **AEWA Plan of Action for Africa** was adopted in 2012 at the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement

(MOP5, La Rochelle, France) in the framework of its **African Initiative**. On this occasion, a **Technical Support Unit (TSU)** was set up to provide technical assistance to African countries for the implementation of the Initiative. Made up of personnel from the Senegal National Parks Directorate (**DPN**), the French National Hunting and Wildlife Agency (**ONCFS**), and the **Fondation Tour du Valat**, it has been financed for the last three years by the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (**MEDDE**).



THE AFRICAN INITIATIVE

The AEWA African Initiative is a set of support measures intended to promote the implementation of the Agreement in Africa. It has been designed to contribute to improving knowledge about migratory waterbird populations and to strengthening the implementation of the AEWA through training, research, and monitoring, and also encouraging new countries to sign the Agreement. Adopted at MOP4 (Resolution 4.9), it has been in force since 2009.

THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR AFRICA

Adopted in 2012, the plan of action aims to develop concrete actions around five objectives, three of which fall more particularly within the TSU's scope:

OBJECTIVE 2 :

To ensure that any harvesting of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable



OBJECTIVE 1 :

To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain the conservation status of waterbird species and their populations



To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them as a basis for conservation action

OBJECTIVE 3 :



THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT - TSU

Launched in 2012, thanks to the financial and strategic backing of the MEDDE's Direction de l'Eau et de la Biodiversité (France), the TSU supports the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa.



François Lamarque
in charge of international cooperation at the MEDDE



The team based in Dakar
Col. Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Oumy Ka, and Moussa Segha Diop

One part of the team, based at the DPN in Dakar, coordinates actions in Africa.



The Tour du Valat - ONCFS team

The other members of the team, made up of Tour du Valat and ONCFS staff, based in the Camargue at the Tour du Valat, provide additional scientific and technical expertise.



THE PRIORITY ACTIONS CHOSEN BY THE AFRICAN PARTIES TO AEWA

During the first year, to ensure the participative implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa, the TSU consulted all the African Contracting Parties to find out their needs and priorities regarding the actions to be carried out within the Plan. The National Focal Points (NFPs) selected the highest-priority actions at three sub-regional workshops, where they also elected their subregional representatives.



Mrs Hamida Salhi
Northern Africa
Representative



June 2013 - at the El Kala National Park, Algeria

NORTHERN AFRICA

Co-organised by the Algerian Direction Générale des Forêts, the El Kala National Park, and the TSU, this workshop brought together 40 participants from the **five countries** involved. The participants decided on **capacity-building** and **data improvement** as priority actions for their subregion.

CENTRAL AND WESTERN AFRICA



**Mrs Germaine
Ouedraogo Bouda**
Western Africa
Representative

Organised by the TSU with support from the Senegalese Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and the AEWA Secretariat, this workshop brought together the NFPs and national coordinators of the International Waterbird Census (IWC) from **15 countries** of Western and Central Africa. **Improving data** and **implementing the management plans of key sites for migratory birds** were chosen as priority actions.



**Mr Frédéric Lambert
Bockandza-Paco**
Central Africa
Representative



December 2013 - Dakar, Senegal

● AEWA
Contracting
Parties

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



October 2013 - Cape Town, South Africa



Mr Wisdom Dlamini
Southern Africa
Representative



**Mr Akankwasah
Barirega**
Eastern Africa
Representative

Organised by the Department of Environmental Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, with support from the AEWA and the TSU, this workshop brought together **11 countries** of Eastern and Southern Africa. The 34 participants selected, amongst other issues, **improving data**, **defining key sites**, and **implementing management plans** as priority actions.

CAPACITY BUILDING



The TSU has designed and developed learning tools aimed at improving waterbird identification and census skills in Africa. All disseminated for free, they have been tested during 15 indoor workshops and field sessions, particularly in the Nile Valley.

A BIRD GUIDE IN ARABIC



The first bird guide in Arabic (4,000 copies), was produced in cooperation with the Tunisian Association "les Amis des Oiseaux" (AAO). This field manual enables the identification of the 200 migratory waterbird species regularly found in North Africa, from Mauritania to Sudan. For each species, it features a picture, the range, and a description, as well as the various names used in each Arabic-speaking country.



Extract from the guide: drawing and range on the left and description of the species on the right



A TOOL FOR TRAINERS

Developed and designed in cooperation with several partners, the multilingual CD contains training modules on the census and identification of waterbirds in Africa. The modules present indoor sessions and field exercises. It has been published and widely distributed to African trainers (the first batch of 500 CDs has run out). The new version has been improved and is now available in 4 languages (English, Arabic, French, and Portuguese). With 1,000 copies produced, the tool will help to develop and strengthen the networks of observers throughout Africa.



DEVELOPMENT OF A NETWORK OF WILDLIFE TRAINING INSTITUTES

The TSU has contributed to promoting the inclusion of the Flyway Training Kit and multilingual CD in the curricula of African regional wildlife training centres. A meeting and a workshop were held in 2015, bringing together the directors and teachers of the Garoua Wildlife School (Cameroon), the College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka (Tanzania), and the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI). These actions will be facilitated by the signing of a cooperation agreement between the three institutions.

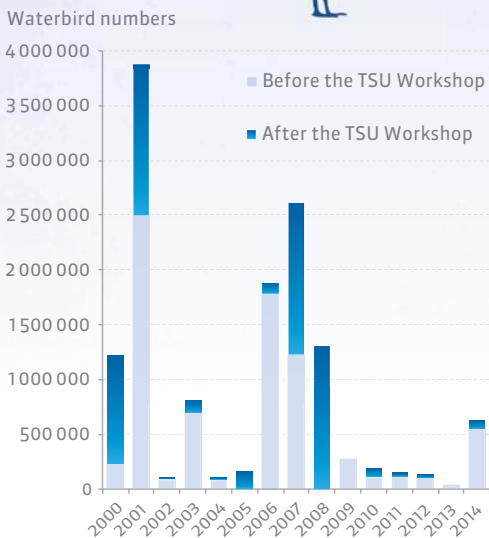


TRAINING OF MANAGERS



All the training offered and disseminated by the TSU is intended for trainers and network leaders, who subsequently relay the knowledge they acquire.

DATA MANAGEMENT



Enhancement of waterbird census data by 9 Subsaharan African countries

IWC data enable the estimation of waterbird populations and trends. It is therefore essential to improve them and to build the skills of the managers in charge of processing and analysing them.

To that end, the TSU brought together the IWC data managers of 15 Western and Central Africa countries in December 2014 in Dakar to update and complete their databases.

WORKSHOP ON THE MANAGEMENT OF KEY SITES FOR WATERBIRDS



Healthy wetlands are indispensable for the long-term conservation of migratory waterbirds.

To guarantee the preservation of these key habitats, the TSU and the KWSTI organised a workshop for site managers from 10 Eastern and Southern African countries in May 2015 at Naivasha (Kenya). The managers were able to familiarise themselves with the processes and planning tools for the management of a key site for migratory waterbirds, and to share their experiences of problems encountered at their own particular sites and the solutions implemented to solve them.



25-29 May 2015- Naivasha - Kenya



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REVIVING TWINNING PARTNERSHIPS



The revival of the twinning partnership between the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) and the Camargue National Reserve (France) will tighten the technical and strategic links between these two deltas of major importance for migratory birds.

Other twinning partnerships are planned to promote knowledge sharing between sites that have issues in common (large dammed lakes, transboundary wetlands).



DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



The TSU focussed on working with the NGOs and administrative bodies coordinating the IWCs to support them in improving their own national monitoring programmes. The long-term goal is to assist the joint efforts to monitor migratory waterbirds throughout the area covered by the AEWA.

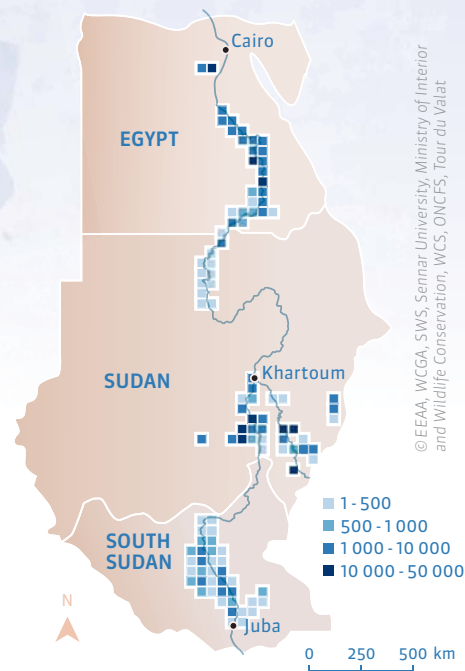
THE SPOVAN PROJECT IN THE NILE VALLEY

Monitoring of Waterbird Populations in the Nile Valley



From 2010 to 2015, IWC observers in **Egypt, Sudan, and South Sudan** received assistance from 11 field missions, which all included training sessions.

Mean waterbird densities between 2010 and 2015 (grid resolution 50 km)



These monitoring operations enabled the counting of more than 570,000 waterbirds in 5 years, which in turn enabled the conservation status of several populations and national wetland inventories to be updated.

IWC-MED: FOCUS ON NORTHERN AFRICA

Percentages of the regional population (according to WPE5) of worldwide threatened species (IUCN Red List) counted in January 2013:

- White-headed Duck (EN)

240%
Algeria-Tunisia

- Marbled Teal (VU)

152%*

- Ferruginous Duck (NT)

96%*



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This analysis enabled the population estimates to be revised, and will be included in the AEWA's next Conservation Status Report.

The support programme for the International Waterbird Census in the Mediterranean (IWC-MED) is aimed at improving the spatial coverage, coordination and data analysis of monitoring operations in the Mediterranean region. Its development has focussed on Northern Africa to improve IWC throughout the region.

In January 2013, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt coordinated a census that provided a first regional analysis showing the importance of the region for several populations of waterbirds, including the White-headed Duck, Ferruginous Duck, Marbled Teal, Ruddy Shelduck, and Greater Flamingo.

*West Mediterranean / West Medit. & Western African Population

PROSPECTS



The TSU relies on its network of African partners to identify and link together their needs with the issues identified and prioritised in the AEWA Plan of action for Africa. Two main areas of activity are currently being developed, subject to funding.

IWC-MED PROJECT (PHASE 2)

For the next phase (2016-2018), the programme will have three major objectives:

- › **Building the capacities of trainers and network leaders** in management, mapping, and data analysis,
- › **Data analysis and dissemination of decision-making tools** by national stakeholders through scientific papers and management actions,
- › **Developing the Mediterranean Waterbirds monitoring networks** in Northern Africa as well as in the eastern and northern parts of the Basin.



THE "RESSOURCE" PROJECT IN THE SAHEL

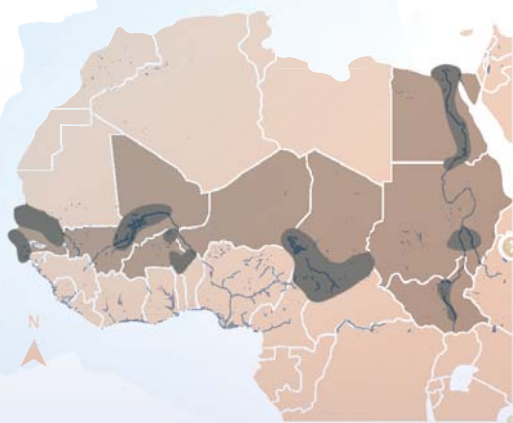
In the Sahel, migratory waterbirds are often a means of subsistence and a significant source of income for local communities.

The aim of this project is to develop an innovative approach for the monitoring and management of waterbirds in the Sahel, to assess whether the current management system is sustainable.

It will include four complementary components:

- › **Monitoring** by strengthening IWC in the Sahel,
- › **Conservation of habitats** by improving the management of a network of Ramsar sites,
- › **Assessment of the utilisation of the "waterbirds" resource**, its socio-economic importance, and the promotion of sustainable harvesting systems by local communities,
- › **Application and dissemination of results, and capacity-building** of local partners.

Extent of the future RESSOURCE project backed by the French Facility for Global Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organization



THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT OF THE AEWA AFRICAN INITIATIVE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

OUR FINANCIAL PARTNERS



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OUR INSTITUTIONAL AND TECHNICAL PARTNERS



PARTNERS

South Africa: Department of Environmental Affairs - Republic of South Africa

Algeria: Algerian Direction Générale des Forêts (DGF), El Kala National Park, National Algerian Ornithology Association (ANAO)

Burkina Faso: University of Ouagadougou, Naturama, Directorate of Wildlife and Hunting

Cameroon: Primature, Ministry of Forests and Wildlife, Garoua Wildlife School

Egypt: University of Alexandria, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), Nature Conservation Sector (NCS)

Kenya: Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute

Libya: Libyan Society for Birds (LSB), Environment General Authority (EGA)

Morocco: Research Group for the Protection of Birds in Morocco (GREPOM)

Sudan: Wildlife Conservation General Administration (WCGA), University of Sennar, Sudanese Wildlife Society (SWS)

South Sudan: Ministry of Interior and Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Tanzania: College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM)

Tunisia: Association "les Amis des Oiseaux" (AAO), Tunisian Directorate General of Forests (DGF)

Other international partners: French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic (OMPO), French Agricultural Research Center for International Development (CIRAD)