

EDITORIAL

The AEWa Newsletter has been an extremely important and well-appreciated tool in informing readers of ongoing activities in the Agreement area. Therefore, the Agreement Secretariat would like to produce one Newsletter at least twice a year. Last year it was not possible to achieve this goal due to the move of the Secretariat from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Netherlands to the United Nations Premises in Bonn.

The year 2000 was an extremely busy year. Although the German Government as well as UNEP/ CMS Secretariat did their utmost to smoothen the removal and the establishment of the permanent Secretariat, it took more time than was expected. The Secretariat is very grateful for this support and now eight months after the establishment of the permanent Secretariat, is now settled. We are now, therefore, able to publish the 7th issue of the Newsletter.

Readers will notice that the design of the Newsletter has changed. The graphic designers we used to work with informed us that they had shifted the sphere of their activities and are now focusing more on other types of work e.g. designing posters. Furthermore, the Secretariat was in favour of upgrading the Newsletter to emphasize that the Agreement has entered into a new era. After the Agreement entered into force, on the 1st of November 1999, our activities have been concentrating more on the implementation of the Agreement. Thus, we are able to give the Newsletter a better presentation that we hope will be appreciated.

As usual the Secretariat has collated information from several sources. Besides this, information has been received from: Mr. Les Underhil (South Africa), Ms Tamara Ruseva (Ukraine), Mr Andrew Griffiths (UK), Mr Miroslav Bobek (Czech Republic), Mr Wim Mullié (Senegal), Netherlands Committee IUCN, Mr Grigori Abramia (Georgia), Mr Eliezer Frankenberg (Israel), Wetlands International, UNEP/ WCMC, Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (UK), Ramsar Bureau, Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (France), Bern Convention Secretariat, BirdLife International (UK), RIZA (The Netherlands), WWF International, OMPO, Tour du Valat (France), Natural History Museum (Uganda) and the Worldbank.

If you would like to contribute to the Newsletter please

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SECRETARIAT NEWS

The Secretariat's Move to Bonn

At the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties (November 1999, Cape Town) it was decided to establish a permanent Agreement Secretariat co-located with the UNEP/ CMS Secretariat under the administration of the United Nations Environment Programme. Following this decision, the Interim Secretariat started immediately after the MOP1 with the preparations of the removal of the Secretariat from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management & Fisheries of the Netherlands to the UN-Premises in Bonn. Priority was given to the recruitment of the Executive Secretary. During the recruitment process all kind of unexpected problems arose, these problems had to be solved by the Secretariat, which turned out to be very time

consuming. Finally the interviews could take place in April. After screening all candidates, Dr Klaus Töpfer, the Executive Director of UNEP, decided to offer the post to Mr Bert Lenten, who has been the Executive Secretary of the AEWa Interim Secretariat since the 1st of January 1996..

Although, the permanent Secretariat should have been established formally on the 1st of January 2000, from a pragmatic point of view, the Government of the Netherlands committed itself to provide an Interim Secretariat on their own expenses until the 1st of July 2000. Looking back, this was very wise because as indicated above it took quite some time to appoint the Executive Secretary. Furthermore, the rounding up of all administrative and financial matters regarding the MOP1 took a lot of time. Besides this, the Interim Secretariat had to rearrange the archives and decide what should be left in the Netherlands and what had to be taken to the new office. At the same time arrangements had to be made to equip the new offices with computers, fax, copy machine, etc. Last but not least all the administrative arrangements needed to enable the Secretariat to continue with its activities had to be put in place.

On the 17th of July 2000 Mr Lenten took up his post and that is the actual starting point of the permanent Secretariat. In August the recruitment procedure for an Assistant was started. The Secretariat received more than forty applications for this post. After the interviews, the interview panel sent its report to UNON with the request to offer the job to the favourite candidate. Unfortunately, at the end of last year, UNON discovered that the procedure followed by the interview panel was not completely in line with the UN rules and procedures. Therefore, they could not agree to offer the job to the proposed candidate and insisted on starting the process again, this occurred in mid-January 2001.

The impact of the move was greater than expected. As explained before, all the logistic and administrative arrangements were very time consuming. Besides this, the Secretariat is now aware of the privileges it had at the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management & Fisheries. As a tiny organisation we could use the existing infrastructure within the Ministry. Translations and reproduction of documents were done in-house. Also, large mailings were done by the mailing room. This type of common services is not available at the UN-Premises in Bonn, which means that a small Secretariat like ours has to take care of everything or has to contract out part of this work. Compared with the former situation, this causes extra work.

Farewell to Dr Gerard C. Boere

On the 1st of September 2000, Dr. Gerard C. Boere from the Division of International Affairs of the Netherlands Ministry for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, started his three-year secondment with the International Coordination Unit of Wetlands International. As International Programme Co-ordinator he will, among many other things, be responsible for the cooperation with some of the international conventions, in particular with their scientific bodies, such as CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD and CMS and develop strategic plans for Wetlands International involvement.

For the catalytic role Gerard Boere has played in the development of international nature conservation, not only in AEWa, he was knighted by the State Secretary of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries on behalf of Queen Beatrix and became an Officer in de Orde van Oranje Nassau. As customary in the Netherlands, the award is given to people who outside their professional capacity have also played an active role in society. Mr Gerard Boere has been involved in the development of many key nature conservation organisations including SOVON, WIWO and the Wader Study Group. He has also played an important role in strengthening relations between Russian and Dutch biologists in exchange programmes.

After the move of the AEWa Secretariat and Mr Boere taking up his post at Wetlands International, our ways part and we have to say goodbye to him. However, at the same time we would like to welcome him in his new capacity as international programme coordinator of Wetlands International, because he will work on the development of a strategy of Wetlands International involvement in migratory species, not only birds although flyway initiatives will be an important part of his work.

As acknowledged by the Meeting of the Parties in 1999, AEWa would not have been developed as it has without the ceaseless efforts of Mr Gerard C. Boere. Therefore the award is certainly deserved for his work at AEWa and the Secretariat would like to congratulate him on this.

Welcome to Ms Mirna Maya

Although the process for the recruitment of an Assistant to the Executive Secretary of AEWA is still ongoing, the Secretariat is pleased to inform you that as of mid-December 2000 Ms Mirna Maya was contracted to take up the work of Assistant on a temporary basis. For the last three years Ms Maya has worked as Assistant at Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Therefore, she is not only familiar with the type of work but also with the United Nations. Her work has been extremely helpful for the operation of the Secretariat at the UN-Premises in Bonn. .

AEWA Secretariat welcomes new Parties.

Over the last few months many Range States informed the Secretariat they are willing to join AEWA. However, the internal procedures for adoption of the instruments of accession are long. It is important to mention that since the last issue of the Newsletter (July 2000) the number of Parties has increased to 31. It is a pleasure for the Secretariat to welcome: Croatia, Bulgaria, Kenya, Mauritius, Moldova, Slovakia and Uganda. Although all these countries differ from each other, they all possess the same richness of biodiversity. By joining AEWA and moreover by implementing the Agreement, the Governments of these countries show their responsibility for the conservation of migratory waterbirds as part of the global biodiversity. The Secretariat looks forward to a fruitful cooperation with these new members of the 'AEWA family'.

First meeting of the Technical Committee of AEWA

From 23-24 October 2000 the first Meeting of the Technical Committee of AEWA took place in Bonn. During this meeting several items have been discussed as follow up of the First Session of the Meeting of the Parties, in Cape Town, last year.

The meeting elected Dr Barry Taylor, representative of Southern Africa, as Chairman. Dr Taylor will replace Mr Yousoof Mungroo (Alternate for Southern Africa) who was elected as provisional Chairman in Cape Town for the period till the first Meeting of the Technical Committee. Prof. Dr. Dan Munteanu, representative of Central Europe, was elected as Vice-Chair.

The Technical Committee discussed/ reviewed during their meeting: the regions used for the Technical Committee, the format for National Reports, Implementation Priorities 2000-2004, the Register of International Projects, the establishment of a Small Conservation Grants Fund, Amendments to the Action Plan, the Conservation Guidelines, the Brent Goose Management Plan and phasing out Lead Shot in Wetlands. Furthermore an introduction was given on the Colonial Waterbird Atlas by a representative of Tour-du-Valat (France) and on the AEWA GEF project by a representative of Wetlands International Africa, Europe & Middle East. The minutes of the Meeting are on the Agreement's Website or could be ordered at the Secretariat.

Some of the points mentioned above need more elaboration and therefore it was decided to organise a second Meeting of the Technical Committee for next year. The representative of Northern Africa provisionally offered that his country (Egypt) would host the next meeting. It was agreed that the meeting should take place in October/ November 2001.

For more information please contact:

AEWA Secretariat

[Picture 2](#)

ACTION PLAN Species Conservation

Action Plan for Great Snipe and Black-winged Pratincole

At the 20th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention, which took place from the 27th of November-1st of December 2000 in Strasbourg), the Convention Secretariat's work programme and budget for 2001 was adopted. This work plan foresees the development of species Action Plans for Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*) and Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*). However, the implementation of these plans is still pending due to the lack of funds.

The above-mentioned species are of interest to AEWA. Therefore, the Secretariat offered to combine forces with the Secretariat of the Bern Convention to seek additional funding under the condition that the Action Plans will cover the whole flyway of the species involved. The total costs of drafting these action plans will be approximately US \$ 15,000 of which 50 percent is already secured. Hopefully, the remaining budget could be covered by voluntary contributions to AEWA soon.

The project will be executed by BirdLife International and will be the first common project between the Bern Convention Secretariat and the AEWA Secretariat

For more information please contact:

AEWA Secretariat

Conservation and management of the Pygmy Cormorant in Israel

Pygmy Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*) were once a common wintering species in Israel, but they were extirpated in 1960 following loss of wetland habitats and escalating conflicts with fish-farmers in the budding aquaculture industry. In 1974 they began to reappear during winter migration in small numbers, and in 1982 the first nesting pair was recorded in Israel. Over the following two decades the number of migrating and resident birds gradually increased: in spring 1998 there were 70 nests, and 100 in spring 1999. There were concomitant increases in conflicts with fishpond managers, until an organized management programme was instituted in the autumn of 1999. The programme consisted of harassment of Pygmy Cormorants in the autumn and winter at roosting sites near fishponds in the Bet Shean Valley, thereby moving them, before the spring nesting season, to roosting sites on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret), where more "natural" fish prey is available. Approximately 600 Pygmy Cormorants were recorded in Israel in the winter of 1999-2000 (about half of them residents). In spring 2000 there were 60 nests around the Sea of Galilee, and another 40 in a small nature reserve in the Bet Shean Valley. These numbers suggest that the management programme did not harm nesting compared to the previous year. This successful programme used non-lethal methods to conserve a rare avian species, by reducing the conflict between these piscivorous birds and the fish-farmers.

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Status Report for Golden Plover

A status report for Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) in the African-Eurasian region is being undertaken by Wetlands International AEME, as a contribution to the preparation of an International Single Species Action Plan (SSAP). The preparation of this Action Plan is supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with funds from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. The status report will be prepared following AEWA Conservation Guidelines. It includes a

comprehensive description of geographic range, species information, environmental information, ecological relationships and implications for conservation and a bibliography.

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[Picture 3 \(from our Website\)](#)

ACTION PLAN Habitat conservation

***Salvinia molesta* threatens Parc National du Djoudj and Parc National du Diawling**

Salvinia molesta first appeared in the Senegal River delta in September 1999 and have spread since then to many bodies of water and water basins, disturbing the existing biological equilibrium and threatening human health as well as the overall ecological and economic characteristics of the delta. This invasive species directly threatens the Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj (Senegal), included in the Montreux Record in 1993 and formerly placed on the list of endangered UNESCO World Heritage sites in 1984, and the Parc National du Diawling in Mauritania.

From the 14th -21st of September 2000, Dr Patrick Triplet (OMPO), Mr. Anada Tiéga (Ramsar Bureau) and Mr. David Pritchard (RSPB) visited these National Parks and met with the institutions involved. The conclusion of this mission was that the threat of *Salvinia molesta* to the ecosystem of the Senegal River basin and to the economic, social and ecological functions of the Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj and the Parc National du Diawling is very serious and merits the continued and constant attention of local officials, national leaders at all levels and the international community.

In the detailed mission report these above-mentioned experts recommend taking several courses of action. Priority should be given to prevent the entry and growth of *Salvia molesta* in the backwaters of the tributaries to these two national parks.

For more information please visit:

http://ramsar.org/index_ram.htm

ACTION PLAN research and monitoring

Waterbirds on the Edge

(WCMC Biodiversity Series No. 11)

Christoph Zöckler and Igor Lysenko's study on the potential impacts of climate change on a number of water bird species breeding in the Arctic is the first on a circumpolar scale. Many of the species studied migrate through the AEWA region. The study applies the HadCM2 model of the Hadley Centre to assess the direct impacts of a changing climate on the breeding conditions of the population of five selected Arctic waterbirds. Furthermore, the current distribution of 25 species is being compared with changes in vegetation predicted

by two climate scenarios, a moderate one based on a rise in temperature of only 1.7⁰C (HadCM2SUL) and an extreme scenario with a rise of 5⁰C (UKMO) at the time of CO₂ doubling (2070-2099).

Analysis of spring and summer data of temperature and precipitation of the last 50 years, interpolated over the area of the species' currently known distribution, demonstrate a significant correlation between the mean June temperature and the juvenile percentage as a measure of breeding success in the Arctic in both tested populations of the Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*).

Under the HadCM2 model, an increase of 1% CO₂/yr results in a moderate increase of the mean June temperature in the Arctic breeding area of Taimyr breeding White-fronted Goose. The conditions for the Taimyr population is particular favourable for the period around 2020. In 2050, the temperature, according to the scenario, seems to fall again, but never below the average of the last 30 years. However, a considerable cooling on the breeding grounds of the goose population in West Greenland could lead to a drop in size of the fragile population, which winters only in the western part of the British Isles. According to the climate model, the temperature around 2080 would not be above the mean values of today.

The results of the vegetation models show a large variation in the impact of predicted changes in vegetation on the 25 species. According to the moderate HadCM2Sul, 76% of Tundra Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis rossicus/serrirotris*) will be affected by the alteration of tundra habitats, whilst only 5% of the Sanderling will be affected. For two of the three considered globally threatened waterbird species, namely the Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) and the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchos pygmeus*), 67% and 56% respectively of their current breeding range will change from tundra to forest. The values for the extreme UKMO scenario are even higher, reaching 99% for the Red-breasted Goose. This additional loss of habitat will place these two species at a higher risk of extinction.

The results from this study require careful interpretation. Although in Alaska there is already evidence of an increase in forest area, and pollen analyses from the Holocene indicate that vast shifts in forest areas occurred during interglacial periods, scientists still argue about the likelihood of such scenarios and about the rate, speed and scale of forest growth into the tundra. However, the results of this study reflect an important component in a matrix of factors affecting the future development of Arctic-breeding waterbirds. They have to be interpreted in relation to other factors affecting the populations of these birds, such as natural predation, hunting (mainly outside the Arctic) and effects of climate change (in particular sea-level rise) outside the Arctic. Further research will be carried out to refine the existing results, based on improved and updated data on distribution and refined GCMs. Other important components, such as sea-level rise and change in river runoff in the Arctic and on the major staging areas during migration, will be taken into account.

The study was generously supported by WWF under Project No. 98046. The full report can be downloaded at: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/climate/waterbirds/index.htm>

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East African Wetland and Waterbird Monitoring Scheme

The future development of the African Waterbird Census was discussed at a workshop organised by Wetlands International, immediately preceding the 10th Pan-African Ornithological Congress in Kampala, Uganda from the 1- 4 of September 2000. The AEWA Secretariat participated at this workshop. A major aim of this workshop was for African representatives to identify priority needs that should be addressed to enhance the effectiveness of the census.

During regional round-table discussions held as part of the workshop, the establishment of an East African regional wetland and waterbird monitoring scheme and associated training were identified by East African national representatives as priorities for underpinning wetland biodiversity conservation in the region. It was noted during the meeting that the strong intra-regional network developed in West Africa has resulted from the existence of a waterbird-monitoring project with a clear identity. The absence of a similar regional focus in East Africa therefore urgently needs to be addressed, not only to encourage individual participation (often by volunteers) but also to act as a stimulus to countries within the region that currently do not contribute, and to increase the potential for attracting new funding.

The workshop and East African round-table-discussion were attended by Dr Mark O'Connell and Dr Seb Buckton of The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), UK. WWT are developing a project with the aim of transferring skills in wetland and waterbird monitoring techniques. WWT has considerable experience of waterbird and wetland monitoring as part of their role as Secretariat of the Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS), operated in the UK jointly with BTO, RSPB and JNCC.

As a result of the round-table-discussions, a clear strategy emerged, through which WWT will make a bid to the Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species, a UK government fund administered by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. Darwin Initiative funding aims to assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources with the conservation of biological diversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention (CBD).

The AEWA Secretariat has sent a letter of endorsement and it is hoped that WWT will receive the requested funds to implement the aims of the project, which are to build and to maintain regional capacity in monitoring of waterbird and wetlands biodiversity.

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White Storks in South Africa

In early December 2000 five White Stork nestlings in the Western Cape were satellite tagged. By mid-January they had all fledged and were on the move. The tracking maps as well as a lot of background information on the phenomenon of the White Storks breeding at the wrong site of Africa are available at the Avian Demography Unit website (<http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/>)

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The 15th anniversary of the friendship of local people with Dniester delta wetlands

In August 2001 the Natural Heritage Fund for conservation wildlife in NW coast of the Black Sea (NHFBS) will celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the programme 'Friendship of local people with wetlands'. Due to the enthusiasm of Dr Ivan Rusev this program started in 1987, aiming to prevent damage of wetlands from hydropower activities. A number of active ecologists from NHFBS annually organize an international ecological expedition and camp for young citizens of local villages and from other countries e.g. Moldova, Russia, Belarus. A special education programme is developed and used for the young people. Part of this programme consists of cleaning up the wetlands from waste and a small canal from silt. Since the start of this venture, more than 1500 young ecologists have taken part in this programme and have discovered many interesting things about nature.

In the view of NHDBS this programme contributes highly to the implementation of AEWA.

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The African Odyssey Project

In 1995 a project of long-term research of the Black Stork's (*Ciconia nigra*) migration by both satellite and conventional telemetry was launched. This project known as The *African Odyssey* project combines, uniquely in post-communist Europe, two approaches, i.e. pure science as well as scientific popularisation and environmental education. Both approaches intermingle in the goals related to nature conservation and biological resources management. Scientists and science publicists have jointly cooperated in its implementation. It has been organised by Czech Radio, which acted as the fundraising agent, obtaining funds from private donors.

During the six seasons of the African Odyssey project, ten adult and eight young Black Storks together with two young White Storks were equipped with satellite transmitters and their migration was monitored as closely as possible. In the very beginning, the scientific part of the project was limited to obtaining basic data necessary for a better understanding of the Black Stork migratory routes, migration strategies and its ecology at wintering grounds.

In the course of the project, many questions and hypothesis have been raised and are waiting to be answered. Obtained findings not only brought valuable scientific data, but also helped to promote conservation and public awareness of storks as well as other migratory birds. During the years, the *African Odyssey* project became popular both in the Czech Republic and abroad mainly due to Czech Radio and the Internet. The team involved in this project would like to continue with the African Odyssey project. Unfortunately no funds are available at the moment to cover the cost of 5 transmitters. Thus, continuation of this project for 2001 is not secured.

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ACTION PLAN Implementation

Workshop on the control of Ruddy duck

In coordination with the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, the United Kingdom organised a Workshop on the control of the North American Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). The workshop, which took place on the 30th of November 2000, aimed to coordinate action by Contracting Parties of the Bern Convention to further implement the recommendations of the White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) Action Plan.

The workshop took note of the work being undertaken by range states of the White-headed duck to protect the species and its habitats. The workshop agreed that the North American Ruddy duck is the major threat to the conservation of the White-headed duck. It was agreed that in order to prevent the extinction of the White-headed duck, action to control the numbers of feral and captive Ruddy duck in Europe needs to be taken in a coordinated manner by all range states

Contracting Parties and all observer states agreed to inform the United Kingdom Government and the Secretariat of the Bern Convention of plans to implement national control programmes by the 30th of March 2001 and that there was a need to reconvene a meeting in Autumn 2001 to review action and to discuss future needs.

For more information please contact:

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UPDATE ON THE 'AFRICAN -EURASIAN WATERBIRD FLYWAY' PROJECT

As indicated in the previous newsletter, Wetlands International-AEME, in close cooperation with BirdLife International, the Ramsar Bureau and the AEWA Secretariat, successfully applied for funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for Project Development Facility (PDF-B) funds. The total budget of the PDF-B project is US \$ 627,000; \$ 350 000 were granted by GEF and the remaining costs are covered by co-funding. Dr Chris Baker has been employed by Wetlands International-AEME to co-ordinate the activities of the project. He will be responsible for drafting a project brief for a full-size GEF project of between US \$ 8-12 million. This will seek to implement a number of AEWA-wide strategies based on the findings from the PDF-B project. The application for the full-size project proposal will be submitted to GEF in November 2001 with the hope that 50 % of the total costs will be provided by them. This means that for the remaining costs of the project (up to US \$ 6 million) must be secured as co-funding, which is a major task for Mr Baker. As well as BirdLife International, the Ramsar Bureau and the AEWA Secretariat are supporting him in pursuing this co-funding.

As it is normal for GEF projects, a Steering Committee has been established. This Committee is composed of representatives from Wetlands International, BirdLife International, UNEP/GEF, Ramsar Bureau, AEWA Secretariat, AEWA Technical Committee and the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel. At the first Steering Committee Meeting, which was held on the 16th of November 2000 in the Netherlands, consideration and review of the project work plan took place. Furthermore, the Terms of Reference for the

Steering Committee including its role in the review of project outputs and monitoring of project progress was thoroughly discussed. The general feeling of the Steering Committee members was that PDF-B project was well underway.

ARAB OUTREACH WORKSHOP

As part of the PDF-B project, two Outreach Workshop will be organized, one focusing on the Arab States and the other on the Central Asian Republics. The aim of these workshops is to improve regional communication, co-operation and co-ordination.

On 16th and 17th of January 2001, the Arab States Outreach workshop was held in Bahrain. Key regional stakeholders were invited to this meeting from both non-governmental and governmental organisations; this included representatives from Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Also representatives from BirdLife International, Wetlands International, Ramsar Bureau and the AEWA Secretariat were present. The goal of this workshop was to:

- Identify actions required to implement the Ramsar Convention and CMS/ AEWA;
- Establish consensus from local agencies on the current status and needs of wetland and migratory waterbird conservation in the region;
- Gain recommendations and agreement from local agencies on the sites to be submitted as potential Demonstration Projects, for inclusion in the full GEF project.

The outcome of the workshop will be a report on the needs of the Arab States. This will be incorporated into the project proposal for the full-size GEF project both as an Annex and as integral part of the strategies proposed for implementation across AEWA.

The Central Asian Workshop will take place later this year in Uzbekistan.

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Wader Atlas supported by Flanders

The Flemish Ministry for Environment and Infrastructure has approved support for the development of the Atlas on Wader Populations in the Agreement Area. Wetlands International has received a grant of € 127.000 from the Flemish Ministry, covering the remaining 51% of expected project costs.

This very generous grant should enable Wetlands International and the Wader Study Group to finalise the Atlas in 2002.

Agrochemicals in Africa

Wide ranges of agrochemicals are used, both legally and illegally, in Africa for agriculture and for pest control purposes. A number of these products are highly toxic to wetlands fauna and flora, including to migratory waterbirds. Some of these products have been banned in other parts of the world. The impact on migratory waterbirds may be either direct through impact on survival or reproductive rates, or indirect through food-chain effects.

In accordance with the International Implementation Priorities AEWA 2000-2004 a 'Review of the use of agrochemicals in Africa, and their impact on migratory waterbirds' should take place. For this a joint approach with the FAO or other organisation would be appropriate. The AEWA Secretariat is pleased to announce that the Centre for Ecotoxicological Research in the Sahel (CERES Foundation), with the support of the FAO LOCUSTOX Project, based in Dakar, Senegal, offered to execute this project. Besides this, by

the end of 2000, agreement was reached on a financial contribution from CERES of US \$ 15,000. This contribution will cover a part of the total costs of US \$ 60,000. The Secretariat is grateful that the Government of Switzerland and France offered to cover the remaining costs. Now that all funds are secured the project will start early 2001.

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PROJECTS

Community involvement in wetland conservation in South-West Siberia, Russia

At the end of October 2000 a wetland conservation project in Southwest Siberia, Russia has been officially started by conducting an inception workshop in the region. The main objective of the project, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Netherlands, is to draft a management vision for 2 lakes, through involvement of local communities from the early beginning of the project. These lakes, Lake Chany and Lake Kuludinskoye, are located between the cities of Novosibirsk and Omsk in the forest steppe zone and the steppe zone. The more than 10,000 different lakes and marshes, which form a huge network of wetlands, are of vital importance for large populations of breeding and migrating waterbirds. Further an environmental profile of both lakes will be drafted.

The main partners in the project are: the Institute for Water and Environmental Problems (IWEP; Novosibirsk), the Institute of Systematics and Animal Ecology (ISAE, Novosibirsk), the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA, the Netherlands) and VEDA Consultancy (the Netherlands).

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UKRAINE: Biodiversity Conservation in the Azov-Black Sea Corridor

The Ukrainian coasts of the Black and Azov seas still contain large and biologically diverse wetland complexes, some of which are the best or only remaining examples of these wetland types in Europe. Sixteen of the most important wetlands have been designated Ramsar sites, totalling more than 650,000 hectares and includes 250,000 hectares of the unique saline lagoons and mudflats in the Sivash ecosystem of northern Crimea. These wetlands and the adjoining upland steppe habitats along the northwestern border of the Black Sea function as the Azov-Black Sea Ecological Corridor, which provide critical wintering and feeding habitat for millions of geese, ducks and waders that overwinter there or utilize the wetlands for feeding and resting on their annual migration between northern Europe and Siberia and Africa. Fifteen of the 27 threatened European bird species stopover or breed in these wetlands, including the majority of the world's populations of the white pelican and the red-breasted goose and 60% of the world population of the broad billed sandpiper.

The Ecological Corridor also contains undisturbed steppe, Ukraine's most endangered habitat. The Ukrainian steppe areas in the project region are the main surviving European representatives of *Stipa* steppes, which range over the Eurasian plains from China to Ukraine. These species-rich communities, dominated by grasses (*Stipa* spp., *Festuca* spp.) and shrubs (*Artemisia* spp.), support many threatened plant and animal species. Together, the marine, wetland, and adjoining steppe communities support more than 100 species found in the Red Data Book of Ukraine and the IUCN Red List. Most of the steppe areas has been converted to farmland, leaving remnant steppe areas mostly within existing protected areas and on former military reservations.

The root causes of the degradation of the Black Sea ecosystems are: (i) large scale conversion of wetlands and steppe communities on the coast of the Black and Azov Sea coast to farmland; (ii) pollution from point sources (e.g., from municipal wastewater, industry, and shipping) and non-point sources (e.g., agricultural runoff) which contribute to eutrophication; and (iii) poor land use planning. These have resulted in drainage of wetlands, destruction of fish spawning grounds, pollution from domestic, municipal, and industrial wastes and agricultural runoff, and unsustainable resource and land use practices.

The Global Environment Facility approved a grant of US \$ 6.9 million to conserve coastal biodiversity within the Azov-Black Sea coastal corridor by strengthening the protected area network, mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into the agricultural landscapes which connect them, and by building support at the national and international levels for sustainable development of the region's unique biological and cultural landscape. Of the total costs (US \$ 8.7 million), \$1.8 million will be financed by the Governments of the Ukraine, The Netherlands, the UK and the USA.

The project would implement recommendation of several regional Environmental Programmes. Last but not least it would highly contribute to the implementation of the Convention on Conservation of Biodiversity and AEWA. Regarding the latter, international workshops on the implementation of AEWA are included in the project.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

President Clinton issues executive order on Migratory Birds

Shortly before President Clinton left office, he issued a landmark Executive Order that requires Federal Agencies to avoid or minimize the negative impact of their actions on migratory birds, and to take active steps to protect birds and their habitat.

The Executive Order directs each Federal agency taking actions having or, likely to have impact on migratory bird populations, to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop an agreement to conserve those birds. The protocols developed by this consultation are intended to guide future agency regulatory actions and policy decisions; renewal of permits, contracts or other agreements; and the creation of, or revisions to, land management plans. In addition to avoiding or minimizing impacts on the population of migratory birds, agencies will be expected to take reasonable steps which include restoring and enhancing habitat, preventing or abating pollution affecting birds and incorporating migratory bird conservation into agency planning processes whenever possible.

The Executive Order is designed to assist Federal Agencies in their efforts to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. President Clinton's Order is an important step for conservation. In particular at a time when the population of many migratory birds are in decline.

For more information please contact:

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The Small Grants for Wetlands Programme

The Netherlands Committee for IUCN (The World Conservation Union) administers a small grants programme for projects aimed at the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands. Funds managed by these small grants for Wetlands Programme (SWP) are provided by the Government of the Netherlands.

The Netherlands is a contracting party to both the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially waterfowl habitat (Ramsar Convention). Therefore projects that are funded by NC-IUCN/SWP should be in line with these conventions. In particular, the central objective of the Netherlands policy on wetlands is wise use. Wise use is defined within the framework of the Ramsar Convention as "*the sustainable utilisation of wetland resources for the benefit of mankind in a way that is compatible with the maintenance of the natural properties of the wetland system*".

SWP funds are especially meant to support projects in the field of conservation and sustainable management of wetlands, set up and implemented by non-governmental, local organisations (NGOs). The ecosystem approach defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity should be the strategic framework for project implementation (see <http://www.biodiv.org/EcosysApproach/Index.html>).

SWP has drafted criteria for the selection of projects to be funded, and a format for project proposals (enclosed). Project proposals must be prepared according to this format and projects must comply with these criteria. Furthermore, the programme will strive for a balanced allocation of funds between regions and priority themes. Countries in which NGO projects may be funded by SWP are those included in the list of bilateral development co-operation countries set by the Netherlands (see Criteria for funding under "Strict criteria").

Deadlines for the submission of project proposals to SWP are the 1st of March, the 1st of July and the 1st of November.

For more information please contact:

Mr Henri Roggeri / Mrs Esther Blom

Netherlands Committee for IUCN

Small grants for Wetlands Programme

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AERIAL SPRAYING IN THE OKAVANGO

The spraying of Endosulphan insecticide over the Okavango Delta will start in May in order to try to control the range of the tsetse fly, the Botswana's Ministry of Agriculture announced at the meeting held in Maun on the 19th October 2000. The wet weather of the summer of 1999/2000 made servicing of many Odour-

baited Targets impossible and there have been cases of nagana (trypanosomiasis) in cattle in the north and west of the Delta but so far no cases of sleeping sickness. There are however, prophylactic trypanocidal drugs to prevent any further problem with cattle and these are currently being used.

The four NGOs (Conservation International, Kalahari Conservation Society, BirdLife Botswana and the Okavango Liaison Group), which were present, raised a number of issues and concerns about aerial spraying. Wide-scale aerial spray could adversely affect the biodiversity of the Okavango Delta, being the largest Ramsar site in the world. It is assumed that there will be an impact on waterbird species, in particular on species like Slaty Egret, which is globally threatened. However, there is no adequate baseline data available to monitor any changes following aerial spraying. Environmental alternatives such as the use of Odour-baited Targets were successfully used elsewhere in Africa to control tsetse-flies. There the NGOs urged an independent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which would consider all options.

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[Picture: 5](#)

The "Evian" Project: a network for technical exchanges between Ramsar sites.

A conservation programme for wetlands and water resources had taken place in many parts of the world from 1998 to the end of 2000; its aim was to contribute to the application of the Ramsar Convention strategy. It had been principally funded by the Société des eaux d'Evian, which is part of the Danone Food Group, and the French GEF (FFEM). The action point dealing with "Transfer of *savoir-faire*" has been covered by two experimental networks, one focussed on the deltas of the closed seas (Mediterranean, Black and Caspian) and coordinated by the Tour du Valat, Camargue, France. The other, covers the East Atlantic flyway and has sites from the Netherlands through to Senegal, it is coordinated by the Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux/ French BirdLife Partner.

In both networks bilateral exchanges between the different site managers took place. The aim of these exchanges was to learn about different management techniques. Furthermore in the Mediterranean, Black and Caspian Sea network, workshops took place on hydrology and water quality (Italy) and one on the link between management and natural resources and water quality (Ukraine). In the East Atlantic network a total of three workshops were held. The workshop topics and locations were as follows: a) the importance of water quality and quantity for birds in wetlands (France); b) ecotourism and integration of local people (Senegal/ Mauritania); c) exploitation of natural resources, particularly fish and shellfish, in coastal wetlands by man and birds (Morocco/ Spain).

As a follow up to this work, another network in yet another continent will be financially supported by the Evian project in order to benefit from their experience and approach to running a network. The Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux will work between 2001 and 2002 with the North East Asian Crane network. This network created by Wetlands International in 1997 and run by the Wild Bird Society of Japan/BirdLife Japan will hold two workshops on the following topics: visitor management and awareness raising, the first one will be held in China and the other one in Japan. This experience will provide more ideas for the possible development of thematic networks for Ramsar sites worldwide.

For more information please contact:

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Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux

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AEWA Experiences studied by Japan

Japan is a country of critical importance for migratory birds, including waterbirds and other groups. While it has concluded bilateral treaties with Russia, the USA, China and Australia, it has not yet signed the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and has no multilateral bird agreements. Interest in this, however, is gradually growing.

This was underlined by a workshop and symposium in December 2000 organised by the Wild Bird Society of Japan (the BirdLife Partner in Japan) and the government Environment Agency, which drew wide audiences from academics, researchers, NGOs, government and public. The findings of a WBSJ study on multilateral agreements were presented. Mr Dave Pritchard of BirdLife International also gave presentations at both events on experiences from in the African-Eurasian region, which included an examination of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement.

The AEWA is seen as an instructive model of the sort of regional multilateral cooperation instrument, which Japan may wish to adopt in due course, perhaps also building on the foundation of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy and its site networks/ action plans for *Anatidae*, crane and shorebirds. Aspects stressed at the workshop included the benefits, which a legally based Agreement such as AEWA offers, in providing an enduring international mandate or imperative for action (which can strengthen the hand of conservation agencies in their internal dealings with other domestic Ministries), and the assistance it provides in raising international funding for project activities.

The close involvement of BirdLife International's treaty advisers in AEWA, and their global partnership network, has provided an important opportunity here for an exchange of experiences between regions. It is hoped that this will lead to international cooperation in the future on migratory bird conservation in Asia and the Pacific.

For more information please contact:

BirdLife International

Mr David Pritchard

The Lodge

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Second International Course on Wetland Restoration

From the 6th of June- 5th of July 2001 the second International Course on Wetland Restoration will take place in Lelystad, The Netherlands. The Wetland Advisory and Training Centre (WATC) of RIZA organizes this course.

The course will focus on restoration of degraded fresh water systems, such as marshes, bogs, rivers and lakes, and will concentrate on the three following stages in a wetland restoration project:

- a) Problem analysis;
- b) Development of strategies;
- c) Realisation of a restoration project.

For more information please contact:

Wetlands Advisory and Training Centre (WATC)

Attn. Secretariat International Course of Wetlands Restoration

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Living Planet Report 2000 (By WWF)

The statistics that you will find in the Living Planet Report are related to what has become known as the 'ecological footprint' by which the impact of human beings on the planet can be measured. The term 'footprint' aggregates human impact on the biosphere in one number– the bio-productive space occupied exclusively by a particular human activity. The figure is arrived at by means of a formula involving all the resources a nation consumes and the waste it generates, together with a classified assessment of various types of consumption.

Looked at from this perspective, the idea of sustainability acquires new meaning and new urgency. Quite simply, the figures demonstrate that the human species is consuming more natural capital than the Earth can replace.

Freshwater Species Population Index fell by about 50 % from 1970 to 1999. This is the most rapid decline of all the species population indices. In this index, the population of 194 species of freshwater birds have been measured whereas most of the species have already been included in the AEWA. One of the species mentioned is the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*), which breeds in the taiga and tundra zones of northern and western Eurasia and winters in the steppe zone of southeast Europe. It is believed that the main causes for its decline are the loss of its feeding habitat and hunting pressure at the staging and wintering group.

WWF is working to make people aware of the impact each one of us has on the limited capacity available – the size of our footprint.

More information please contact:

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Picture 6

Conferences . Meetings of interest

July 20-22, 2001

The 8th International Waterfowl and Wetlands Symposium "The Waterfowl Legacy/ Links to Watershed Health", Washington, USA

INFO: Ms Brenda Carlson, Ducks unlimited One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, Tennessee 38120, Tel: (+1) 901 758 3707, E-mail: bcarlson@ducks.org or visit http://www.ducks.org/conservation/symposium_2001.asp.

August 2001 (tentative)

The Central- Asian Flyway Workshop, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

INFO: UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

September 3-7, 2001

25th Congress of the International Union of Game Biologist and Perdix IX International Symposium, Limassol, Cyprus

INFO: Dr Eleftherios Hadjisterkotis, President of the IUGB, Ministry of Interior, 1453 Nicosia, Cyprus, Tel: (+357) 2 867619, Fax: (+357) 2 67465, E-mail: min.of.interior@cytanet.com.cy

September, 9-12, 2001

Conference on southern African ornithology, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa

INFO: Ms Sue Kuyper, Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7701 South Africa. Email: orn2001@maths.uct.ac.za

November 2001 (tentative)

Second Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee, Egypt

INFO: UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

November 28- December 2, 2001

Seminar: Wetlands in a changing World, Wageningen, The Netherlands

INFO: Wetlands International-International Coordination Unit, P.O. Box 471, 6700 AL Wageningen, Tel: (+31) 317 478854, Fax: (+31) 317 478850, E-mail: icu@wetlands.agro.nl

PUBLICATIONS

Proceedings of the International workshop “Towards a European management of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) ...as game species”

An International workshop “Towards a European management of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose...as game species”, organised by FACE, OMPO and ONC, was held from the 5th –7th of November 1998 in Vannes, Morbihan (France).

During this workshop the current status and exploitation of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose was reviewed. Referring to the *International Flyway Management Plan* regarding the Dark-bellied Brent Goose, the participants considered resumption of shooting of the species and called for the early development of a reliable population model. Furthermore the need for further information on the status of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose in Russia, especially current harvest levels was recognized.

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HERON CONSERVATION

Heron Conservation, edited by James A. Kushlan and Heinz Hafner, is a masterly and comprehensive compilation of the state of current knowledge on the status and conservation of 60 species of herons worldwide. The volume is a major update and extension of *The Herons Handbook* produced by James Hancock and Jim Kushlan in 1984 and incorporates the wealth of new information on herons that has been gathered during the last 15 years.

Heron Conservation is the product of a major collaborative effort by heron researchers and conservationists, drawing on the knowledge and information of over 200 experts and 20 major contributors worldwide through the auspices of the IUCN/Birdlife International/Wetlands International Heron Specialist Group.

This book, published in 2000, is a must for all those involved in research and conservation of wetlands and waterbirds. It provides the essential sourcebook of information and guidance for those researching and managing heron population. Furthermore, its mix of regional species and topical issue syntheses provide a

model for the presentation of information vital as the basis for appropriate sustainable use policy and decision-making where herons are concerned.

Academic Press have published the book and a copy could be ordered there or else via the booksellers.

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IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS IN THE BALTIC SEA

Published by BirdLife International 2000

This publication provides detailed documentation of 169 coastal and marine IBAs, which have been identified by this inventory. The study also documents a new approach at systematically defining boundaries for IBAs in a seascape with no obvious site boundary features, using interpolated census data and a GIS system. The results of the inventory show the following distribution of the identified IBAs. The most frequently represented major habitat type is the littoral zone, which comprises 69 % of all areas. However, the inventory shows that the majority of IBAs in the littoral zone are considerably smaller than the sites representing lagoons and the sub-littoral zone. The lagoons are well represented, in fact large IBAs are found in all major lagoons of the Baltic Sea. The sub-littoral zone is also well represented, though mainly areas, which share characteristics of this zone and offshore extensions of estuaries and coastal habitats (21 % of all IBAs). A striking fact is that no IBA have been identified in the lower sub-littoral zone or in the deep basins.

Naturschutz Bund Deutschland (NABU) and the Danish Cooperation for Environment and Energy in Eastern Europe (DANCEE) provided financial support for this study. This support enabled BirdLife International together with its BirdLife Partners and other organizations to carry out the Inventory of Coastal and Marine Important Bird Areas in the Baltic Sea.

For more information please contact:

BirdLife Denmark

Vesterbrogade 140

DK-1620 Copenhagen V

Denmark

Proceedings of the International meeting on Snipes.

Very little is known about the population of cryptic birds such as Snipes (*Gallinago gallinago media*, *Lymnocyptes minimus*) The aim of the technical meeting of OMPO held in Vilnius, Lithuania from the 3rd – 4th of March 2000, was to build on what was already known about this species. The proceedings have been published in the OMPO Newsletter No. 21, June 2000.

For more information please contact:

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SNIPES

Snipe are small secretive and little-known wading birds. Their habitats during the breeding season, migration and wintering periods, as well as their numbers and population trends hold many surprises in store for us. This book is an extensive compilation of the current knowledge of the three species present in Europe and Western Palearctic namely: the Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), the Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*) and the Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptus minimus*).

The author Richard Rouxel takes us from the peat bogs in Russia, through France to the ponds of Africa to discover the fascinating world of snipes.

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Pechora Delta

Structure and dynamics of the Pechora Delta ecosystem (1995-1999)

For thousand of years already, birds have travelled the route between wetlands bordering the Barents Sea, where they breed, and the North Sea where they traditionally winter. Mankind has occupied, to a limited extent only, the northern territories.

The Pechora delta is a ca. 2000 km long, non-regulated river in European Russia. Originating from the Ural, it reaches the sea between the islands of Kolguev and Nivaya Zemlya. Its vast coastal plain and delta are largely undisturbed by human intervention and the population is limited to a few fishing villages and temporary settlements of nomadic Nenets.

Exactly 400 years after the dramatic journey of the Dutch discoverer Willem Barentz a Russian-Dutch project was started. It is a joint venture between the Russian Institute of Biology (RAS) in Syktyvkar and the Dutch research Institute RIZA in Lelystad, in close cooperation with the local managers of the State Committee for Environmental Protection in Nar'y-an-Mar. The main objectives of the project were the assessment of ecosystem components by specialists in different fields, identification of the relationship between environmental parameters and comparing "ground-truth" data with satellite image data in order to create a delta wide survey.

The findings of five successive expeditions into the area are contained in the report "Pechora Delta Structure and dynamics of the Pechora Delta ecosystem (1995-1999)". This reports shows that several conclusions can be drawn with respect to biological functioning. All are related to the presence of large-scale, intact landscapes, both from a geomorphologic and ecological point of view.

For more information please contact:

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Bird Atlas of Uganda

Uganda is a small country but has more than 1,000 species of birds, including many large and attractive ones, as well as the usual plethora of 'small brown jobs' (in case of Uganda, there are, for example, 20 species of *cisticola*) This atlas records what the authors Margaret Carswell, Derek Pomeroy, Jake Reynolds and Herbert Tushabe know so far about the distribution and seasonality of these birds, and discusses this in relation to their conservation. Although Uganda's bird life is rich, there is already evidence that a number of species are

in decline. Amongst these are certain Palearctic migrants, which may be indicative of further global biodiversity loss. Finally the publication of this Atlas is scheduled for spring 2001.

For more information please contact:

BOU

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E-mail: Uganda.atlas@bou.org.uk

Threatened Birds of the World

A unique publication, aimed at helping you save birds from extinction.

A shocking, 1,186 species of birds risk becoming extinct in the next 100 years. Even worse, 182 species are Critically Endangered –meaning they could be extinct in just 10 years.

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Threatened Birds of the World can be used to:

- focus conservation action, conservation plans and expeditions;
- help shape conventions and influence policies;
- improve the focus and reliability of environmental impact assessments;
- monitor the environmental changes and impact of conservation actions;
- ensure confident targeting of scarce funds and resources at species, sites and habitats.

For more information or to order a copy please contact:

Lynx Edicions

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Fax: +34 93 3021475
E-mail: lynx@hbw.com
<http://www.hbw.com>

[Picture 7 \(from internet site www.hbw.com\)](http://www.hbw.com)

2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

The 1996 *IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals* and the *The World List of Threatened Trees* published in 1998, were the first major global compilations to use the 1994 IUCN Red List Category system. Since publication of these works, a large number of species have been reassessed and there has been a significant increase in the number of species assessments. Release of the 2000 Red List, compiled by Craig Hilton Taylor, is a major landmark for IUCN as it enters the electronic age. It is the first time that listings of animals and plants have been amalgamated and the first time that the Red List has been produced on CD-ROM making it accessible to an even wider audience.

The 2000 Red List combines all the new assessments with those from the two previous publications in a new format. The combination of animals and plants into a single list containing assessments of 18,276 taxa (11,046 of which are threatened species) and the move towards improved documentation of each species on the list, means that a hard-copy version of the Red List would run to several volumes. This, combined with the fact that the Red List will be updated annually, led to the decision to release the 2000 Red List in electronic format only, via the World Wide Web and as a CD-ROM. The www version of the 2000 Red List is a component of IUCN's new *World Conservation Atlas* which is an exciting project to help disseminate information collated by IUCN and its members to users world-wide.

For more information or to order a copy please contact:

IUCN Publications Services Unit

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<http://www.iucn.org>

Heritage of the RUSSIAN ARCTIC

The Arctic is a region with the most severe natural conditions and one of the most sparsely populated areas in the world. It is the global importance of the Arctic that elicits permanent and ever-growing interest in scientists from different countries throughout the world. This is especially true of Dutch scientists, the Netherlands having long-lasting historical and ecosystem links with northern Russia. In the late 1980s, the Dutch government launched an international programme of joint long-term ecological studies in the Russian Arctic, which was enthusiastically supported by the Russian authorities and scientists. The name of Willem Barents, an outstanding Dutch Navigator, became a symbol of this scientific collaboration, by virtue of his heroic life and death, which connected the Netherlands and the Russia Arctic.

The 'Heritage of the Russian Arctic' are the proceedings of the International Scientific Willem Barents Memorial Arctic Conservation Symposium, held in Moscow, Russia from the 10th –14th of March 1998. This volume presents the results of investigations carried out by a large international body of scientists.

For more information please contact:

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries

Division of International Nature Management

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2500 EK, The Netherlands

RIVERS ARE BEING KILLED, TOO

The Institute and the Serbian Ecological Society published the third book of the edition "Small Ecological Library", "Rivers are being killed, too". The issue discussed here is the river ecosystem and the consequences of pollution for example the toxic pollution of the Tisza River by cyanide and heavy metals. The publication describes general causes and consequences of river pollution and is aimed at the general public. It also appeals for the prevention of similar catastrophes and for the wider public participation in the field of environment protection. The book is well illustrated, with a number of original ecological caricatures.

For more information please contact:

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Websites

The Development of the AEWA-WEBSITE

The further development of the Agreement's Website is one of the projects included in the International Implementation Priorities AEWa 2000-2004. The general idea is to develop the Website into a more attractive site containing useful information on the Agreement. Maps and graphics in particular would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the AEWa Website. Furthermore the Website should include: pages available in all official languages, access to all official documentation, clearing house facilities, photographs of different species and maps of sites allowing users to examine migration routes, key sites per species, etc. The Interim Secretariat visited WCMC in Cambridge to discuss further development of the Website. It was decided to give priority to include interactive maps on migration routes per species. Currently the Interim Secretariat is considering what kind of information should be included in the Internet Mapping System. Although it is technically possible to include this information, there are budget limitations. Fortunately due to a voluntary contribution from Germany, the first phase of the development of the Website will be possible. During this first phase official documentation is now available and new photographs of species will be put on the Web. Furthermore the Contracting Parties will be requested to submit their country programmes so that these can be included too.

For more information please contact:

UNEP/ AEWa Secretariat

<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/awea>

Mini-Website on Wetland Restoration

The Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (the STRP) recently completed a draft web mini-site (http://ramsar.org/strp_rest_index.html) on wetland restoration. The site is ready for external review, although the STRP is well aware that the site will need some refinement and there is a need to add more case studies and other information. You are invited to send your comments, case studies, or other info to bstreever@aol.com

Joint Website between UNESCO and RAMSAR

At the World Wetlands Day, the Director of UNESCO announced a new joint Website between RAMSAR and UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme. This site has brief texts and links to longer texts on each of the wetland sites that are both Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar sites.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.unesco.org/mab/ramsarmab.htm>

Online Ornithological Atlas of Georgia

This Atlas is an "in-kind" contribution of the Georgian Centre for Environmental Research to the WB Project: "Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) and the National Report.

The Caucasus is one of the richest regions in bird species diversity. As many as 300 bird species inhabit Georgia alone, a remarkably high diversity for such a small country. This can be understood when one considers that almost all types of ecosystems from high-mountain to subtropical and arid zones are represented here in close proximity. Of these 300 species more than half only appear in Georgia during migration or during the winter. Some of them migrate long distances, and one of the migration routes that crosses Georgia is the unique complex of Kolkheti lowlands and the coastal zone, an area with abundant hydro systems including Lake Paliastomi. Another good example is the complex of high-mountain lakes on the Javakheti Plateau in southwestern Georgia. According to preliminary research, over 100 migratory bird species winter in this area or appear during migration

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COLOFON

THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN WATERBIRD AGREEMENT (AEWA) IS AN AGREEMENT UNDER THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE BONN CONVENTION. AEWA AIMS TO CREATE A LEGAL BASIS FOR A CONCERTED CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY BY RANGE STATES FOR MIGRATORY WATERBIRD SPECIES.

AEWA HAS AN ACTION PLAN, WHICH SPECIFIES ACTION PARTIES SHALL UNDERTAKE IN RELATION TO PRIORITY SPECIES AND ISSUES.

THE NEWSLETTER PROVIDES THE LATEST NEWS ON AEWA. THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER 2001

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN FRENCH.

THE NEWSLETTER WAS PUBLISHED BY:

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PRINTED BY: LV DRUCK, MÜNSTER

AGREEMENT UPDATE

The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) entered into force on the 1st of November 1999. From that date onwards in accordance with Article XIII, paragraph 3..... *a State or a regional economic integration organisation can become a party through the deposit of the instrument of accession with the Depository (the Treaties Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands)*. A specimen of the instrument of accession is obtainable from the Depository or the AEWA Secretariat.

PARTIES

The following Range States ratified, accepted or approved the Agreement and became a Contracting Party: Benin, Bulgaria, Congo, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Jordan, Kenya, the Netherlands, FYR of Macedonia, Mali, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Niger, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Sudan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and United Kingdom.

SIGNATORIES

Signatories to the Agreement are: Belgium (29-10-'99), the European Union (1-9-'97), France (25-11-'98), Greece (14-5-'98), Ireland (27-08-1996), Luxembourg (27-10-'97), Morocco (19-11-'97) and Ukraine (16-10-'98)
