Report on waterbird monitoring development in the Agreement area (doc 8.26)

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Why monitoring waterbirds?
Three main purposes of waterbird monitoring

• Dynamically identify the conservation status of species/populations

• Define conservation priorities

• Measure the impact of conservation work
Organisational development

• African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership
  • Organisations
  • Institutions
  • Regional reps of IWC national coordinators

• Regional meetings of the national International Waterbird Census (IWC) coordinators from Africa and the Western Palearctic

• Waterbird Fund
Capacity development and support

- Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative - supported countries from Mauritania to Angola (SOVON, BL, WI);
- The Mediterranean Waterbird Network Project - supported North Africa and Turkey (TdV/OFB);
- IWC development in Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau – 3-year project (WI/MAVA);
- RESSOURCE project in the Sahel (FAO/OFB/FFEM).
Technical developments & funding

• **New trend analysis method** was investigated, but rejected

• The Waterbird Population Estimates (**WPE**) are now available on an **online portal** in a searchable database

• Waterbird Fund – **€ 140,000** since July 2018

• Other funding support – **€ 1.2 million** in 2020 (project-based and short- or maximum medium-term)
Impact of developments

• Time lag of data use for status assessment maintained at 3 years (5 years in 2012)

• IWC count totals published annually

• 1% biogeographic population thresholds were updated if up/down by ≥20% since 2012

• Population status assessment based on monitoring data – 35% increase since 2018 (54% of the AEWA populations) – still below the target of 66%
Data availability as of May 2021
Key developments required

• Improving the regularity of waterbird counts in Africa (especially in the Sahel and East Africa)

• Establish adequate breeding bird monitoring schemes and assessment processes in Africa
THANK YOU!

MERCI!