

Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds











# Introduction

In Article II of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, Parties agree, as a fundamental principle, to take co-ordinated measures to maintain migratory waterbird species in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such a status. To this end, the Parties agree to apply within the limits of their national jurisdiction a number of general conservation measures prescribed in Article III of the Agreement, as well as a number of more specific actions determined in the Action Plan appended to the Agreement. In paragraph 7.3 of the Action Plan, the Agreement Secretariat is required to co-ordinate the development of a series of Conservation Guidelines to assist the Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Agreement. These Conservation Guidelines, which should be prepared in co-ordination with the Technical Committee and with the assistance of experts from Range States, were submitted to the First and Second Meetings of the Parties, which recommended publication after minor amendment, and further recommended regular review (Article IV, paragraph 4 of the Agreement). The Technical Committee keeps the guidelines under review, and formulates draft recommendations and resolutions relating to their development, content and implementation for consideration at sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (paragraph 7.6 of the Action Plan).

Paragraph 7.3 of the Action Plan gives a list of some of the topics that should be covered by the Conservation Guidelines. These are as follows:

- (a) single species action plans;
- (b) emergency measures;
- (c) preparation of site inventories and habitat management methods;
- (d) hunting practices;
- (e) trade in waterbirds;
- (f) tourism;
- (g) reducing crop damage;
- (h) a waterbird monitoring protocol.

Preparation of the Conservation Guidelines was identified as a major activity in the *International Implementation Plan for the Agreement of the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds 1997-1999*, prepared by Wetlands International in April 1997 with financial support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries in The Netherlands. Activity 3 of the *Implementation Plan* involved the preparation of nine sets of conservation guidelines, following the list in paragraph 7.3 of the Action Plan, but treating site inventories and habitat management methods as two separate topics. These Guidelines were accepted by the first Meeting of the Parties in Cape Town, South Africa, in November 1999, subject to minor amendment. The necessary amendments were made after discussion by the Technical Committee, and the amended version of the Conservation Guidelines was accepted by the second Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement in Bonn, Germany, in September 2002.

The nine sets of guidelines, as set out in the *Implementation Plan* and presented here, are as follows:

#### 1. Guidelines on the preparation of Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds

In paragraph 2.2.1 of the Action Plan, Parties are required to co-operate with a view to developing and implementing international single species action plans for populations listed in Category 1 in Column A of Table 1 as a priority and also for those populations listed with an asterisk in Column A of Table 1. Furthermore, in paragraph 2.2.2, Parties are required to prepare and implement national single species action plans for all those populations listed in Column A of Table 1 with a view to improving their overall conservation status. The Agreement Secretariat is required to co-ordinate the development, harmonisation and implementation of these plans. The present guidelines focus on national single species action plans. They outline a standard procedure for the preparation of such action plans, and identify the priority species

and populations occurring in the Agreement Area.

#### 2. Guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds

In some situations, populations of waterbirds can suddenly be subjected to much higher levels of mortality than normal. These emergency situations can arise as a result of natural phenomena, such as periods of exceptionally cold weather or prolonged droughts, or as a result of man-made disasters, such as major pollution incidents. International co-operation is required to address these situations without delay. In Article III, paragraph 2 (f) of the Agreement, Parties agree to co-operate in emergency situations requiring international concerted action and in identifying the species of migratory waterbirds, which are the most vulnerable to these situations. Furthermore, Parties agree to co-operate in developing appropriate emergency procedures to provide increased protection to these species in such situations. In paragraph 2.3 of the Action Plan, Parties are required, in close co-operation with each other whenever possible and relevant, to develop and implement emergency measures for populations listed in Table 1, when exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions occur anywhere in the Agreement Area. At its third session, the AEWA Technical Committee adopted criteria to define emergency situations, which require urgent conservation measures, and determined the modalities for assigning responsibility for action to be taken (Article VI, paragraph 7 (e) of the Agreement). The present guidelines identify many of the possible emergency situations that may arise, and outline procedures for establishing early warning systems and tackling these situations at national level.

#### 3. Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds

In Article III, paragraph 2 (c) of the Agreement, Parties are required to identify sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds occurring within their territory. More specifically, in Paragraph 3.1.1 of the Action Plan, Parties are required, in liaison where appropriate with competent international organisations, to undertake and publish national inventories of the habitats within their territory, which are important to populations listed in Table 1. Parties should endeavour, as a matter of priority, to identify all sites of international or national importance for populations listed in Table 1 (Paragraph 3.1.2). These guidelines develop a stepwise approach to the inventory process, which takes full advantage of existing regional and national wetland inventories and lists of sites important for migratory waterbirds.

## 4. Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds

In Article III, paragraph 2 (c) of the Agreement, Parties are required to encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds occurring within their territory. More specifically, in Paragraph 3.2.1 of the Action Plan, Parties are required to endeavour to continue establishing protected areas to conserve habitats important for the populations listed in Table 1 of the Action Plan, and to develop and implement management plans for these areas. These guidelines set forth the basic procedures for the design and implementation of management plans, with special reference to sites of importance for migratory waterbirds.

# 5. Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds

If populations of migratory waterbirds are to be maintained in a favourable conservation status, it is essential that any exploitation of these populations be carried out on a sustainable basis. Article III, paragraph 2 (b) of the Agreement requires that Parties ensure that any use of migratory waterbirds is based on an assessment of the best available knowledge of their ecology, and is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them. In paragraph 4.1.1 of the Action Plan, Parties are required to co-operate to ensure that their hunting legislation implements the principle of sustainable use as envisaged in the Action Plan, taking into account the full geographical range of the waterbird populations concerned and their life history characteristics. The present guidelines promote the establishment of 'harvest frameworks' at both international and national levels, and identify a series of steps to assist Range States in adopting a sustainable approach to the harvesting of waterbirds.

#### 6. Guidelines on regulating trade in migratory waterbirds

Paragraph 7.3 of the Action Plan requires that guidelines be provided on the regulation of trade in

waterbirds. Although it seems that there is relatively little international trade in migratory waterbirds in the Agreement Area, national (or domestic) trade can be very high, involving annual harvests of many thousands of birds for sale as food in local markets. In some areas, such trade may be of considerable importance to the local economies. These guidelines concern both international and domestic trade, and offer practical advice on how trade in waterbirds can be regulated within the framework of sustainable harvests.

#### 7. Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands

The development of ecotourism based on spectacular concentrations of migratory waterbirds can not only increase support amongst the general public for waterbird conservation, but can also, if properly managed, provide a valuable source of income for local people with negligible harm to the environment. In Paragraph 4.2.1 of the Action Plan, Parties are required to encourage, where appropriate, the elaboration of cooperative programmes to develop sensitive and appropriate ecotourism at wetlands. Furthermore, in Paragraph 4.2.2, Parties are required, in co-operation with competent international organisations, to endeavour to evaluate the costs, benefits and other consequences that can result from ecotourism at wetlands with concentrations of waterbirds. The present guidelines examine a wide range of issues relating to nature-oriented tourism in general, and offer practical advice for the sensitive development of ecotourism at wetlands important for migratory birds.

# 8. Guidelines on reducing crop damage, damage to fisheries and other forms of conflict between waterbirds and human activities

Changes in population levels and distribution of waterbirds, combined with an intensification of agriculture and aquaculture, have led to increased conflicts between some waterbird species and human activities, notably agriculture, aquaculture, and commercial and recreational fisheries. With the great increase in air traffic in recent decades, many large waterbirds now pose a serious hazard to aircraft. In Paragraph 4.3.2 of the Action Plan, Parties are required to endeavour to gather information on the damage, in particular to crops, caused by populations listed in Table 1, and report the results to the Agreement Secretariat. In paragraph 4.3.3, Parties are required to co-operate with a view to identifying appropriate techniques to minimise the damage, or to mitigate the effects of damage, in particular to crops, caused by populations of waterbirds listed in Table 1. The present guidelines examine the major causes of conflict between migratory waterbirds and agriculture, fisheries and aviation, outline procedures for investigating the problems, and suggest a number of measures that can be taken to reduce the damage.

#### 9. Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol

Populations of all migratory waterbirds in the Agreement Area should be monitored on a continuous basis to determine population trends and to provide an early-warning system for species in difficulty. This will enable appropriate measures to be implemented before the populations fall to dangerously low levels. Paragraph 5.2 of the Action Plan requires that Parties endeavour to monitor the populations of waterbirds listed in Table 1, and make the results of such monitoring available to appropriate international organisations, to enable reviews of population status and trends. Paragraph 5.3 requires that they cooperate to improve the measurement of bird population trends as a criterion for describing the status of such populations. In Paragraph 5.8, Parties agree to co-operate with relevant international organisations to support research and monitoring projects. The present guidelines examine the value of monitoring in the conservation of migratory waterbirds, review existing monitoring practices, and provide guidance on the development of national waterbird monitoring schemes that are most appropriate for international conservation efforts.

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# Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds

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and

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# Step chart

In the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds, each country should take the following steps:

- Step 1: Prioritise sites in need of urgent management.
- Step 2: List threats and possible conflicts in land use.
- Step 3: Identify all parties involved in the management of the site.
- Step 4: Where appropriate, install a site management committee.
- Step 5: Assess the type of management required.
- Step 6: Draft a management plan.
- Step 7: Implement the management plan.
- Step 8: Revise the management plan as required.

AEWA Guidelines No. 4

#### Introduction

Why do we need guidelines on site management, when excellent publications on the subject already exist? The reason that the AEWA Action Plan calls for the preparation of site management plans is that management aimed specifically at the conservation of migratory waterbirds may at times differ from general site management.

There is a tendency in nature conservation to abandon the sectoral approach (*e.g.* birds versus flowers), and to direct management towards the maintenance of healthy ecosystems, with a high degree of biodiversity. In truly natural systems, this is undoubtedly the best approach. However, migratory waterbirds often rely on areas that are intensively used by man for other purposes (*e.g.* geese in agricultural land). In these cases, an ecosystem approach would not work, and for the purposes of the AEWA, it is often necessary to revert to the sectoral approach. It is always important to recognise that the best way to approach the management of a particular site (sectoral versus ecosystem oriented) will differ from case to case, depending on the nature of the site.

Although, there are many excellent publications on site management and the development of management plans, these are not readily available to everyone in the AEWA area. The present guidelines therefore include a rather detailed summary of procedures for the development of site management plans.

The development of site management plans is time-consuming, and may draw heavily on financial and human resources. When resources are limited, priority should be given to those sites which can be expected to lose their value for migratory waterbirds if no management measures are implemented (see Step 1).

# Step 1: Prioritise sites in need of urgent management

Prioritising is essential to optimise the benefits for waterbird populations and to minimise the input of limited resources (financial and manpower).

All of the information needed to establish priorities should be available in the national site inventory (see Guideline No.3: *Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds*). When no inventory is available, priority sites should be identified on the basis of expert and local knowledge.

Initially, sites should be ranked according to their importance for migratory waterbirds. This can only be established on the basis of census data. The creation of a waterbird monitoring programme is therefore of the utmost importance (see Guidelines No.9: *Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol*).

Prioritising on the basis of the occurrence of migratory waterbirds should focus on those species and populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan, in the following order of priority:

- 1. Species and populations qualifying for international Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs), *i.e.* species listed in Category 1 in Column A of Table 1, or in Categories 2 or 3 in Column A and marked with an asterisk. (For details, see Guidelines No.1: *Guidelines on the preparation of Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds* and Appendix I).
- 2. Other species and populations listed in Column A of Table 1, *i.e.* in Categories 2 or 3 but not marked with an asterisk.
- 3. Species listed in Column B of Table 1.
- 4. Species listed in Column C of Table 1.

Information on the occurrence of waterbirds in their breeding areas may be available through national or international atlas projects. The European Bird Census Council (EBCC) can provide data for Europe, while BirdLife International can provide information for many other regions. Information on the occurrence of waterbirds in mid-winter (January in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, and January and July in sub-Saharan Africa) is available from Wetlands International through the International Waterbird Census. Information on the occurrence of waterbirds at staging areas during the migration seasons is less readily available. In the case of waders, information may be obtained through the International Wader Study Group or Wetlands International's International Waterbird Census (IWC) database. For other taxa, some information may be available from nartional coordinators of waterbird monitoring schemes and the coordinators of Wetlands International's various Specialist Groups.

Once sites have been ranked according to their importance for migratory waterbirds, those sites in most urgent need of management should be identified on the basis of their current conservation status:

- Is there any form of protection?
- Is protection effective?
- Is the site undergoing detrimental changes?

It might be easier and more practical to prioritise sites by starting at the bottom of the list and working up. Obviously, sites which are considered to be 'safe', either because they are well functioning reserves or simply because there are no threats, and sites which already have functioning management plans go to the bottom of the list.

In the establishment of priorities, consideration should be given to the position of critical staging areas in the total flyway. As an example, small coastal sites in Morocco may seem unimpressive as compared to the Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania or the Wadden Sea in Northwest Europe, but they are vital stepping stones in the migration of waders between these two key areas.

# Step 2: List threats and possible conflicts in land use

A distinction should be made between permanent or gradually developing threats, which should be addressed in a management plan, and sudden threats, which should be treated as emergency situations (see Guidelines No.2: *Guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds*).

Common threats causing negative trends in numbers of waterbirds include:

- Drainage;
- Conversion to agricultural land;
- Urban and industrial development, including the development of infrastructure;
- Habitat degradation through over-use (e.g. over-grazing and over-fishing);
- Undesirable natural succession in the vegetation through under-use (e.g. following the abandonment of traditional agriculture, as described in Box 1);
- Agricultural pollution (eutrophication);
- Industrial pollution (chemicals);
- Disturbance (e.g. from tourism and hunting);
- Man-induced changes in the water regime;
- Introduced predators.

## Box 1: The dangers of under-use

In Western Europe, Africa and the Middle East, wetlands are often threatened by over-use: too much development, too much harvesting of fish and wildlife, and especially too much intensification of agriculture. The opposite can also be true, and is often seen in countries with economies in transition, *e.g.* in parts of Eastern Europe and the former USSR. These countries have large, relatively undisturbed river systems that have traditionally been used for low-intensity agriculture (mowing and grazing of seasonally flooded grasslands).

The Biebrza and Narew river systems in northeastern Poland are excellent examples. In developing economies, the continued existence of such systems is no longer guaranteed. They are either lost due to drainage, fertilisation and intensification, or abandoned as low-intensity use is no longer economically viable. Abandoned wetlands of this type rapidly become overgrown with bushes and trees, and lose their value as habitat for migratory waterbirds. Large National Parks have been established in the Biebrza and Narew systems, but future management poses a problem, as artificial continuation of labour-intensive, low-intensity agriculture in a growing economy becomes increasingly expensive.

Threats should be ranked according to their importance, which will vary between habitats and between regions and/or countries. Box 2 gives some examples of threat assessment in Europe. Detailed threat assessment at the species level is very time-consuming. It is therefore recommended that in the development of management plans for AEWA sites, only simple systems be adopted for ranking threats.

Alterations to the water regime require special attention, as these are often not very visible. A distant dam may affect the timing or amplitude of floods in a downstream wetland. It may seem that not much has changed, but over the years, adaptation of the vegetation may alter the appearance of the wetland, thus affecting its value for waterbirds. Between-year dynamics should not be neglected. For example, the ecology of Sahelian floodplains, which are of extreme importance for millions of migratory waterbirds from the Palearctic, is strongly influenced by the irregular occurrence of 'disastrous' droughts or extreme floods.

# **Box 2: Threat assessment in Europe**

Example 1: The most important threats in different habitats

- Marine habitats: introduced predators
- Coastal habitats: tourism and recreation
- Inland wetlands: drainage/land reclamation
- Tundra, mires and moorland: oil/gas exploitation
- Agricultural and grassland habitats: crop improvement

#### Example 2: Ranked threats for inland wetlands

- 1. Drainage/land reclamation
- 2. Loss of riparian habitat
- 3. Tourism/recreation
- 4. Management of vegetation
- 5. Pollution from nutrients
- 6. Water abstraction
- 7. Pollution from toxic chemicals
- 8. Water-level regulation
- 9. Hunting disturbance
- 10. Wetland impoundment
- 11. Canalisation
- 12. Increased predators
- 13. Angling/fisheries
- 14. Acidification
- 15. Excessive sedimentation
- 16. Aquaculture
- 17. Introduced species

Example 3: Threat assessment for a particular habitat or site

Each species is given a priority score ranging from 1 (low priority) to 4 (high priority). For each threat, each species is given an impact score: 0 (none), 1 (medium), or 2 (serious). For each threat, all species impact scores are multiplied by their priority scores and summed.

(Source: Tucker et al., 1997)

It is unlikely that there is an important site for waterbirds anywhere in the world without some land-use conflicts, even in the case of established nature reserves. The 'classic' reserve with nature and people on either side of the fence may survive in a few industrialised countries, but is no longer considered acceptable in developing countries, where the use of natural resources is vital for local people.

In many countries, responsible agencies now enter into open dialogue with local people to improve relationships and to identify sustainable forms of land use that are acceptable to all parties. This can be a lengthy and tedious process, but is vital for long-term success in the management of natural resources, especially in Africa.

Land use conflicts not only exist between those who wish to conserve and those who wish to exploit, but also between people practising different forms of exploitation. An example of this can be seen in the Sahelian floodplains (see Box 3). Field studies, including interviews with local people and their representatives, are essential so that the opinions of all stakeholders can be taken into account.

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## Box 3: Community based wetland management in Africa

Africa's vast expanses of seasonal floodplains, notably in Sahelian countries in the north and in Zambia in the south, provide some of the most important habitats for migratory waterbirds in the world. In most cases, traditional, sustainable, community-based management systems were in place in pre-colonial times. These have usually been corrupted by colonial regimes and subsequent independent governments through the imposition of centralised legal systems on local populations. In spite of conservation efforts, these new systems have often proved to be counterproductive with respect to wetland management, as local people no longer feel responsible for their natural resources.

Wetland projects in the Barotse Floodplain and Kafue Flats in Zambia seek to restore the traditional landuse systems, and return part of the responsibility for the management of wetlands and wildlife to local populations. In the Senegalese part of the Senegal River Delta, development of community-based wetland management is hampered by the fact that the Djoudj National Park was imposed on the people in 1971, without consultation, and consequently without wide acceptance. In contrast, the newly established Diawling National Park in the Mauritanian part of the Delta has been based on community participation since the earliest planning phases, and now shows promising results.

These examples have demonstrated that development of community-based sustainable management is an extremely slow process, once the original, traditional systems have been lost.

# Step 3: Identify all parties involved in the management of the site

The inventory of land-use conflicts yields a list of stakeholders.

Government bodies or private companies involved in the development of wetlands for agricultural use are usually powerful bodies, by tradition often unsympathetic to nature conservation. When large structural works are planned (e.g. drainage and irrigation projects, road-building schemes, and programmes of land reform), there is a great deal of money and power involved. With the right approach, these powerful institutions can be converted into powerful allies. This applies in exactly the same way in both developed and developing countries.

In developing countries, various donor organisations may be involved in the management of a site. Because of differences in the scope and objectives of these organisations, it is possible that they may come into conflict with one another.

If the site has potential for tourism (including ecotourism), tour operators and hotel owners in the region may also be involved.

To summarise, possible stakeholders include:

- the owners:
- local villagers:
- fishermen's organisations;
- farmers' organisations;
- hunters' organisations;
- local politicians:
- the Ministry of Environment or equivalent;
- ministries dealing with agriculture, fisheries, water, public works and education;
- · governmental conservation agencies;
- land development bodies:
- national non-governmental conservation agencies;
- international non-governmental conservation agencies;
- donor agencies;
- local and national tourist boards.

The list of stakeholders should, if possible, be maintained in a database linked to the site inventory, and should be updated at regular intervals.

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# Step 4: Where appropriate, install a site management committee

It is important to establish a management committee for the site, especially in developing countries where the involvement of local communities is vital. In some cases, a single management committee could be responsible for two or more sites in the same region.

The management committee should include representatives of as many as possible of the stakeholders. The choice of which of the groups of stakeholders are represented will depend on ownership of the site, present use, possible future developments and threats. In addition, a management committee should always include scientific advisors.

There is no need for the management committee to receive formal power. Most importantly, it provides a platform where views and opinions can be shared and discussed.

The management committee should meet at least once a year, although sub-committees (involving individuals who may not be present at the main committee meetings) could meet more often, if necessary. This may be especially true at the village level and for the scientific advisors. The latter may even consider establishing a separate scientific committee that reports back to the management committee.

# Step 5: Assess the type of management required

The type of management required will depend on the ecological function of the site for waterbirds. Functionally, a site can be a:

- breeding site for dispersed breeding species;
- breeding site for colonial breeding species;
- moulting area;
- staging area;
- wintering area.

Most sites have more than one function, and can be divided into sub-sites, according to function.

**Dispersed breeding species** occur in many different habitats throughout the AEWA area. Two of the most important habitats for waterbirds are the Arctic tundra and temperate grasslands. There is usually little if any need for management in the tundra, where the main issues are conservation of the fragile ecosystems and protection against permanent damage, especially from oil exploitation.

Temperate grasslands may be natural (*e.g.* in the Russian Federation) or man-made. The main threat to natural grasslands is conversion to agricultural land, and here the emphasis should be on the creation of protected areas. Breeding populations of waders and ducks on agricultural grasslands in Europe are threatened by intensification in farming practices by private farmers. Two conservation strategies that have been used to combat this threat are buying land to establish grassland reserves, and concluding management agreements with the farmers (see Box 4).

**Colonial breeding species** are found in temperate and tropical wetlands. In Europe, many wetlands supporting large colonies of waterbirds have been given protected status. Elsewhere, this is often not the case. Where colonies host species in need of Single Species Action Plans, management must be linked to developing SSAPs (see Guidelines No.1: *Guidelines on the preparation of Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds*).

Breeding colonies of waterbirds can be situated at a considerable distance from water. They are often on private land, or may even be in trees in cities. One option worth investigating is the possibility of offering tax incentives to landowners who do not make any changes to their property that might affect colonies of waterbirds on their land. This works successfully in the USA (*e.g.* in lowland swamps in South Carolina), and could be of interest in countries in the AEWA area where there are still large private estates with much undeveloped ground (*e.g.* in the Mediterranean).

Some colonial waterbirds nest on the ground in agricultural land, salt pans and other man-made habitats (e.g. Collared Pratincole Glareola pratincola and Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus in the Mediterranean). These birds can benefit from management agreements with private landowners.

**Moulting areas** for waterbirds are often isolated or inaccessible, and out of reach of most predators. This is because many species of waterbirds have impaired flight during the moult. Some species, such as many dabbling ducks *Anas* spp., disperse and hide individually, while others, such as the Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, concentrate in large groups. Little is known about the moulting areas of many species, and the location of key moulting sites is therefore a high priority.

**Staging and wintering areas** can be in reserves, on unprotected government land or common land (*e.g.* the Sahelian floodplains), or on private land. In some parts of Europe, the Government pays farmers compensation for the damage caused by wintering geese and swans to their

harvest (see Box 4). The potential for using financial compensation as a tool in waterbird conservation outside Europe, with financial aid coming from the international community, has yet to be properly investigated. (See also Guidelines No.8: Guidelines on reducing crop damage, damage to fisheries, bird strikes and other forms of conflict between waterbirds and human activities).

Other activities related to migratory waterbirds that require management include:

- Hunting (see Guidelines No.5: Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds);
- Trade (see Guidelines No.6: Guidelines on regulating trade in migratory waterbirds);
- Ecotourism (see Guidelines No.7: Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands).

# Box 4: Paying farmers for tolerating migratory waterbirds

The intensification of agriculture has caused great losses in natural values all over the world. In the AEWA area, this is especially so in Europe. Various financial mechanisms have been developed to reduce ecological losses, either by offering farmers payment for refraining from certain activities, or by paying them compensation for damage caused by animals. Some of these measures relate to migratory waterbirds, notably nesting waders and ducks, and wintering geese and swans.

Paying farmers for tolerating migratory waterbirds is particularly well developed in the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Germany and France.

In grassland areas important for nesting waders and ducks, farmers can conclude management agreements with their local or national government (usually financed with government funds, but in Europe also with EU funding), whereby they receive various kinds of payments, *e.g.* for

- not changing the physical characteristics of their land;
- · maintaining high ground water tables;
- reducing the use of fertilisers;
- reducing the intensity of grazing;
- postponing mowing until later in the season.

Payments are calculated on the basis of the estimated average reduction in income associated with each of these measures (for each type of agreement, a fixed price per ha per annum). Management agreements of this kind affect the habitat. An alternative approach is to pay farmers a small premium for each successfully hatched nest of certain valuable species. This may be more economical, but is much more complicated to implement, and is ecologically less sound.

In the case of wintering geese and swans, farmers are not paid for producing less intensively, but for the damage caused to their crops by the birds. Farmers can be paid after the harvest, the level of payment depending on an assessment of the damage to the crop, or can be paid a fixed amount per ha per year to tolerate the birds, regardless of their numbers and length of stay. Hunting opportunity and income from hunters can encourage farmers to tolerate crop damage. (See also Guidelines No.8: Guidelines on reducing crop damage, damage to fisheries, bird strikes and other forms of conflict between waterbirds and humans).

# Step 6: Draft a management plan

Two major sources of information on management planning are:

- New Guidelines on Management Planning for Ramsar Sites and Other Wetlands, available from the Ramsar Convention Bureau or from the Ramsar web site: <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/key guide mgt new e.htm">http://www.ramsar.org/key guide mgt new e.htm</a>
- European Guide for the Preparation of Management Plans for protected and managed natural and semi-natural areas, prepared by the EUROSITE Working Group on 'Management Plans: Methods and Techniques' in 1996 and updated in 1999. See: <a href="http://www.seit.ee/projects/toolkit.pdf">http://www.seit.ee/projects/toolkit.pdf</a>

There are many other useful publications, especially in North America and various parts of Europe, but the two mentioned above give good coverage and are widely accepted in the AEWA area. They are, moreover, reasonably compatible.

A management plan should consist of a preamble, explaining the need for the plan, followed by three major parts:

- 1. Description
- 2. Evaluation and objectives (what to do)
- 3. Action plan/prescriptions (how to do it)

# Part 1: Description

The description of the site can be straightforward, and includes all that is known about the site, including the threats to it. The presentation of information should follow the format used in the site inventory, but there should be more detail. (See Guidelines No.3: *Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds*).

The EUROSITE guide suggests many more subheadings than are given on the Ramsar Information Sheet. These are grouped under the headings:

- · General information
- Physical/abiotic features
- Biological/biotic features
- Socio-economic features
- Additional information

In a European context, this order of headings is logical, with nature first and people last, but in developing countries, where involvement of the local people is a very sensitive issue, there is a tendency to change the sequence, and treat socio-economic features before biological features.

Relevant research reports should be referred to as accompanying background documents, but as little detailed research information as possible should be included in the main document, to limit its size. A management plan of 100 pages is acceptable, but one of under 50 pages is better.

# Part 2: Evaluation and objectives

The evaluation lists what the site has to offer, and may deal with the following topics (in no particular order, as treatment may vary from site to site):

- Size and position in ecological unit (e.g. catchment area);
- Biological diversity;
- Naturalness:
- Rarity (sensitive information on rare species should be kept confidential);
- Fragility (with respect to both natural and man-induced causes);
- 'Typicalness';

- Recorded history;
- · Potential for improvement;
- · Aesthetic, cultural and religious values;
- Social and economic values:
- Education and public awareness:
- Recreation;
- Research.

The objectives can be divided into:

- · Long-term management objectives
- Operational objectives

The long-term objectives should always be the ideal situation, irrespective of constraints, and should match the preamble. They should be followed by a list of constraints, such as:

- Internal natural factors (succession, water level dynamics);
- Internal human-induced factors;
- External natural factors (e.g. climate);
- External human-induced factors (e.g. dams located upstream);
- Factors arising from legislation or tradition;
- Physical considerations (e.g. inaccessibility):
- Available resources (including finance).

Thus, there are three ingredients that lead towards the operational objectives:

- Evaluation
- Long-term objectives
- Constraints

Operational objectives can be many-fold, and should:

- describe achievable and measurable targets;
- be realistic in relation to the constraints;
- point in the direction of the long-term objectives.

# Part 3: Action plan/prescriptions

Different sources propose different structures for Part 3, but there are always four major elements:

- Zoning
- Management strategies
- Projects and work programmes
- Monitoring and review

**Zoning** may be useful for large sites, where some parts, for example, may be suitable for recreational use, while other parts hosting vulnerable species may require total protection. Zoning can be a powerful tool to concentrate and/or limit access to certain parts of the site. Zoning may require separate sets of action plans/prescriptions. Criteria for zoning should be derived from an assessment of threats.

**Management strategies** (or options, such as non-intervention versus intervention, re-introduction versus control of pest species, restrictions on access versus open access) should be categorised under:

- Habitat/species management;
- Human usage (taking account of 'wise use');
- Access, public use, education/demonstration;
- Research (facilities, opportunities);

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- Training of personnel;
- 'Estate' management (maintenance of buildings, roads, dams etc.).

'Wise use' includes management agreements, e.g. for farmland, fish farms and salt pans.

**Projects** (if there are many, grouped into **programmes**) define what should actually be done in practice. Each project should describe who is involved (personnel), what exactly should be carried out and when, and how much it will cost. This part of the management plan typically becomes more detailed in each successive version of the plan. In early versions of the plan, the section can be kept very brief.

**Monitoring** and **review** are sometimes presented as projects or programmes, but they are of sufficient importance to merit separate treatment. Monitoring of wetland values (such as the numbers of waterbirds using the site) is the only way to keep track of developments and to judge whether or not the objectives are being met. The results of monitoring will form the basis for decisions on whether or not to change or adapt the plan. Review of the management plan should be a continuous process leading to periodic reports on how the various projects are proceeding. Review reports should be prepared every three to five years, but it is recommended that a brief internal evaluation be made every year. Review may lead to a revision of the management plan (Step 8).

#### **Additional information**

In addition to the three basic parts of the plan, there can be varying amounts of additional information, much of which can be presented in appendices. Examples include:

- References:
- List of resource persons;
- Species lists;
- · List of material needs;
- Timetable for implementation.

Finally, there should be a:

Budget

The budget should be structured in such a way that sizeable parts can easily be taken out to be tailored to the specific tastes of potential donors. Some donors prefer to give money for equipment, such as vehicles, boats, bicycles, binoculars, bird books, computers and pencils. Some donors have a taste for digging canals or building sluices, while others might prefer to finance a craft shop for local women, a health care centre in a village located near the wetland, or a demonstration project to promote sustainable forms of land use.

# Step 7: Implement the management plan

Preparation of the management plan is relatively straightforward. Implementation of the plan is much more difficult, and will depend totally on the goodwill of all those involved. If the plan does not have wide support, implementation may prove impossible. It is for this reason that considerable emphasis has been placed on identifying all the stakeholders and their respective roles. It is important to ensure their continuing involvement through the management committee (Step 4).

One mechanism for stimulating support for a management plan is to link the management of the site to that of another site in another country in the same flyway (*i.e.* a site which harbours the same birds at a different time of the year). The significance of this linkage can be a useful tool in raising public awareness (see Box 5). If a site in a poor country is linked to one in a rich country, this 'twinning' of sites may also facilitate fund raising. The potential for twinning in the AEWA area has not as yet been adequately investigated.

# Box 5: Site twinning - linking two worlds through sites for migratory waterbird

Where political pressure is useful to promote the protection of a site, 'site twinning' may be a powerful tool. This has been very successful with many sites in North and South America. In South America, the system focuses mainly on stimulating private landowners to protect their wetlands, but governments may also be stimulated to protect wetlands if a clear link with sites in other parts of the world can be demonstrated. However, there are still rather few examples of site twinning In the AEWA area. Site twinning is one of the items in the EUROSITE Toolkit. See:

http://www.eurosite-nature.org/article.php3?id article=82

Site twinning can also be effective in developing ecotourism. If an ecotourism strategy has already been designed and implemented in one of the areas, the experience gained may be of considerable assistance in the development of ecotourism in the other. The development of joint projects and exchange programmes may be appropriate, and in some cases, one of the partners may be prepared to provide the bulk of the funding.

Site twinning appeals most if ringing records actually show that the same individual birds use both sites. An example is the Djoudj National Park in Senegal, which is twinned with the Camargue in France. Several species of herons and egrets that breed in the Camargue migrate to spend the winter in Djoudj National Park.

Ideally, responsibility for implementation and follow-up should be assigned to someone who can carry out his or her duties as part of a regular job (e.g. a representative of the owners or someone from a National Park Service or equivalent). If this is not possible, responsibility should be with the project staff. The question of long-term responsibility should be taken into account in the management plan, and also in the budget.

If responsibility for implementation is initially in the hands of temporary project staff, a major goal should be to institutionalise the management of the site, so that someone can take over on a permanent (or semi-permanent) basis.

The key to successful implementation of a management plan is a flexible and dynamic approach.

# Step 8: Revise the management plan as required

Step 6 outlines the drafting of a document known as a management plan. In fact, a management plan should not be seen as a static document, but as a dynamic process. Steps 1 to 5 are as essential to this process as is any document that may be produced during the process. Furthermore, a management plan is never a final product. It must constantly be revised and updated, and typically completely re-written every three to five years. Management plans that have been written primarily to generate funds are especially likely to become outdated very quickly.

If funding remains insecure and frequent redrafting is anticipated, it is advisable to keep the document rather general and as concise as possible. In such cases, it may be better to refer to the document as a Master Plan, which can serve as an umbrella document for a variety of partial plans with partial budgets, aimed at different donors. These partial plans can be quickly modified to take advantage of funding opportunities, without affecting the overall Master Plan.

## References and useful web sites

#### 1. ACTION PLANS

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- Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group. In prep. Global Action Plan for the Conservation of Anseriformes (Ducks, Geese, Swans and Screamers). IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

#### Useful web sites

AEWA Action Plans can be found at:

http://www.unep-aewa.org/publications/technical\_series.htm

Action Plans for EC Birds Directive Annex 1 species can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/directive/birdsprioritv.htm

**IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Groups** 

http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/sgs.htm

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#### Useful web sites

**Botulism** 

http://www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/avianb/ce00s02.en.html

Diseases

http://www.avianbiotech.com/diseases/newcastle.htm

Algal blooms

http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/estuaries/pfiesteria/

http://www.whoi.edu/redtide/

Lead posioning

http://www.unep-aewa.org/publications/other publications.htm

http://www.britishcolumbia.com/Wildlife/wildlife/information/Lead%20Poisoning%20of%20Water%20Birds.htm

Oil spill in Wales

http://www.swan.ac.uk/biosci/empress/news.htm

Oil spill in the Russian Federation

http://www.american.edu/projects/mandala/TED/KOMI.HTM

Oils spill in South Africa

http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/oilspill/

Cyanide pollution of river Tisza

http://nfp-hu.eionet.eu.int/cyanide.html

Heavy metal pollution of Coto Doñana

http://www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/1999/6/99.06.01.x.html

National Response Center

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html

Emergency Response Notification System

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html

National Response Team

http://www.nrt.org

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http://www.wetlands.org/RDB/Directory.html

Ramsar Information Sheet

http://www.ramsar.org/key ris index.htm

Ramsar Information Sheet explanatory notes and guidelines

http://ramsar.org/key\_ris.htm#note

Ramsar criteria

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New guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands

http://ramsar.org/key guide mgt new e.htm

Ramsar wise use guidelines

http://ramsar.org/key\_wiseuse.htm

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http://www.gct.org.uk/

International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (C. I. C)

http://www.cic-wildlife.org/

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http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/othrdata/pbpoison/pbpoison.htm

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council

http://www.iwrc-online.org/

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http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/pubs/sscaps.htm

**CITES** 

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The World Travel & Tourism Council WTTC

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The World Tourism Organisation WTO

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United Nations Environment Programme, Industry and Environment, UNEP-IE: Tourism <a href="http://www.unepie.org/tourism">http://www.unepie.org/tourism</a>

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Bird strikes

http://www.birdstrike.org/birds.htm

www.airsafe.com

Conflict between fisheries and waterbirds

http://www.cormorants.info/pdfs/WM14.pdf

http://banchory.ceh.ac.uk/conflict/case studies/case%20studies.htm

Costs and benefits of managing wild geese in Scotland

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/kd01/purple/cbmwgs-05.asp

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Manuals for IWC coordinators and counters: http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/Manuals.htm

African Waterbird Census, reports, news, recording forms: http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/africa/africa.html

Western Palearctic and Southwest Asia Waterbird Census, Background information and reports: <a href="http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/wpal&swa/wpal.htm">http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/wpal&swa/wpal.htm</a>

IWC publications: http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/wpal&swa/output/about.htm

Census procedures and recording forms for Africa, Western Palearctic and Southwest Asia: http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/docs/census proc.htm

Western Palearctic and Southwest Asia, national site lists (clickable map): http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/wpal&swa/output/sites.htm

Western Palearctic and Southwest Asia, national coverage history, 1967-1996 (clickable map):

http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/wpal&swa/output/coverage.html

Western Palearctic and Southwest Asia: National Coordinators of waterbird monitoring: <a href="http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/wpal&swa/partner/WPalNC.htm">http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/wpal&swa/partner/WPalNC.htm</a>

Asian waterbird Census, information, Coordinators, reports, news: <a href="http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/awcmain.html">http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/awcmain.html</a>

Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town <a href="http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/">http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/</a>

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center: Colonial Waterbird Inventory and Monitoring <a href="http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/">http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/</a>

US Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Bird Monitoring http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/statsurv/mntrtbl.html

# **Useful contacts**

#### General

African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement UNEP/AEWA Secretariat UN-Premises, Martin-Luther-King-Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany

Tel: (+49) 228 815 2413 Fax: (+49) 228 815 2450 E-mail: <u>aewa@unep.de</u>

WWW: http://www.unep-aewa.org

Bern Convention Secretariat (Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of European

Wildlife and Natural habitats)

**Environment Conservation and Management Division** 

67075 Strasbourg Cedex

France

Tel.: +33-3-88413559/2256 Fax: +33-3-88413751 E-mail: gill.steimer@coe.int

WWW: http://www.nature.coe.int/english/cadres/bern.htm

BirdLife International Wellbrook Court

Girton

Cambridge CB4 3QX United Kingdom

Tel.: +44-1223-277318 Fax: +44-1223-277200 E-mail: birdlife@birdlife.org WWW: http://www.birdlife.org/

CBD Secretariat - Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity

World Trade Centre 393 St. Jacques Street Office 300

Montréal, Québec H2Y 1N9

Canada

Tel.: +1-514-2882220 Fax: +1-514-2886588

E-mail addresses: <a href="http://www.biodiv.org/secretariat/contact.asp">http://www.biodiv.org/secretariat/contact.asp</a>

WWW: www.biodiv.org

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)

UNEP/CMS Secretariat

United Nations Premises in Bonn Martin-Luther-King Straße 8

53175 Bonn Germany

Tel.: +49-228-815-2401 and +49-228-815-2402

Fax: +49-228-815-2449
E-mail: secretariat@cms.int
WWW: http://www.cms.int

Council of Europe

**Environment Conservation and Management Division** 

Palais de l'Europe Avenue de l'Europe 67075 Strasbourg Cedex

France

Tel.: +33-3-88412253 Fax: +33-3-88413751 E-mail: infopoint@coe.int WWW: http://www.coe.int

EC - European Commission

Wetstraat 200 1049 Brussels Belgium

Tel.: +32-2-2351111

E-mail: <a href="mailto:europawebmaster@cec.eu.int">europawebmaster@cec.eu.int</a> WWW: <a href="mailto:www.europa.eu.int/comm/index.htm">www.europa.eu.int/comm/index.htm</a>

ECNC - European Centre for Nature Conservation

PO Box 1352 5004 BJ Tilburg The Netherlands Tel.: +31-13-4663240 Fax: +31-13-4663250

E-mail: ecnc@ecnc.org WWW: www.ecnc.nl

International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (C. I. C)

PO Box 74

H - 2092 Budakeszi

Hungary

Tel: 0036 60 444 647 Fax: 0036 60 444 648

E-mail: <u>budapestoffice@cic-wildlife.org</u> WWW: http://www.cic-wildlife.org/

IUCN - the World Conservation Union

28, rue Mauverney 1196 Gland Switzerland

Tel.: +41-22-9990001 Fax: +41-22-9990002 WWW: <u>www.iucn.org</u>

E-mail addresses at: http://www.iucn.org/wl/db/sitefeedback.cfm

IUCN/ELC - Environmental Law Centre

Adenauerallee 214 53113 Bonn Germany

Tel.: +49-228-2692231 Fax: +49-228-2692250

E-mail: <a href="http://www.iucn.org/themes/law/elc01.html">http://www.iucn.org/themes/law/elc01.html</a>

Ramsar Convention Bureau

28, rue Mauverney 1196 Gland

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E-mail: <a href="mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org">ramsar@ramsar.org</a>
WWW: <a href="mailto:www.ramsar.org">www.ramsar.org</a>

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme

PO Box 30552 Nairobi Kenya

Tel.: +254-2-621234

Fax: +254-2-226890 and +254-2-215787

E-mail addresses: <a href="http://www.unep.org/Contacts/">http://www.unep.org/Contacts/</a>

WWW: www.unep.org

UNESCO/MAB - Man and Biosphere Programme

**Ecological Sciences Division** 

1, rue Miollis

75732 Paris Cedex 15

France

Tel.: +33-1-45684151 Fax: +33-1-40659897 E-mail: mab@unesco.org

WWW: http://www.unesco.org/mab/

UNESCO/WHC - World Heritage Centre

Place de Fontenoy 7 75352 Paris Cedex 07

France

Tel.: +33-1-45681443 Fax: +33-1-40569570 E-mail: wh-info@unesco.org WWW: www.unesco.org/whc

UNEP - WCMC - World Conservation Monitoring Centre

219, Huntingdon Road Cambridge CB3 0DL United Kingdom Tel.: +44-1223-277314

Fax: +44-1223-277136 E-mail: info@unep-wcmc.org WWW: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/

Wetlands International

PO Box 471

6700 AL Wageningen The Netherlands Tel.: +31-317-478854 Fax: +31-317-478850 E-mail: post@wetlands.org WWW: www.wetlands.org

WWF-International - World Wide Fund for Nature

Avenue du Mont-Blanc

1196 Gland Switzerland

Tel.: +41-22-3649111 Fax: +41-22-3642926

E-mail addresses: http://www.panda.org/about\_wwf/who\_we\_are/offices.cfm

WWW: www.panda.org

#### **Species Action Plans**

IUCN Species Survival Commission c/o IUCN (see under **General**)

Wetlands International Specialist Group Co-ordinators c/o Wetlands International (see under **General**) <a href="http://www.wetlands.org/networks/SGroups.htm">http://www.wetlands.org/networks/SGroups.htm</a>

BirdLife International (see under General)

#### **Emergency situations**

No specific addresses. See under **General**, according to circumstances.

#### Site inventories

MedWet Coordination Unit Villa Kazouli, Kifissias & Gr. Lambraki 1 14561 Kifissia Greece

Tel.: +30-210-8089270 Fax: +30-210-8089274 E-mail: <u>info@medwet.org</u> WWW: <u>www.medwet.org</u>

Ramsar Convention Bureau (see under General)

# Site management

EUROSITE - European Network of Site Management Organizations PO Box 1366 5004 BJ Tilburg The Netherlands

Tel.: +31-13-4678638 Fax: +31-13-4634129 E-mail: <u>eurosite@kub.nl</u>

WWW: www.eurosite-nature.org

Ramsar Convention Bureau (see under General)

# Sustainable harvest

International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (C. I. C) (see under General)

FACE - Fédération des Associations de chasseurs de l'EU 82 Rue F. Pelletier

B-1030 Brussels

Belgium

Tel: +32-2-732.69.00 Fax: +32-2-7327072

E-mail: <a href="mailto:face.europe@infoboard.be">face.europe@infoboard.be</a>
WWW: <a href="http://www.face-europe.org/">http://www.face-europe.org/</a>

#### **Trade**

TRAFFIC International 219c Huntingdon Road Cambridge CB3 0DL

UK

Tel: (44) 1223 277427 Fax: (44) 1223 277237 E-mail: traffic@WCMC.org.uk

TRAFFIC Europe Waterloosteenweg 608 1060 Brussels Belgium

Tel.: +32-2-3470111 Fax: +32-2-3440511 WWW: www.traffic.org

UNEP/CITES Secretariat (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species,

Washington Convention)

PO Box 456

Geneva Executive Centre 1219 Châtelaine (Geneva)

Switzerland

Tel.: +41-22-9799139 and 9799140

Fax: +41-22-7973417

E-mail addresses: http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/sec/index.shtml

WWW: http://www.cites.org/

#### **Ecotourism**

The Ecotourism Society TES PO Box 755 North Bennington VT 05257 **USA** 

Tel: +1-802-447-2121 Fax: +1-802-447-2122

E-mail: ecomail@ecotourism.org WWW: http://www.ecotourism.org

#### Bird damage

FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization Forest Resources Division Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 Rome

Italy

Tel.: +39-06-57053589 Fax: +39-06-57055137 WWW: www.fao.org/fo

IBSC - International Bird Strike Committee C/o National Bird Strike Committee Royal Netherlands Airforce Airstaff P.O.Box 20703 2500 EB The Hague The Netherlands

Tel: +31-70-3396911

#### **Waterbird Monitoring**

International Waterbird Census (IWC) & African Waterbird Census (AfWC) Waterbird Conservation Officer c/o Wetlands International (see under **General**)

SOVON Rijksstraatweg 178 6573 Beek-Ubbergen The Netherlands Tel: 024 684 81 11 Fax: 024 684 81 88

WWW: http://www.sovon.nl/

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust Slimbridge Gloucester GL2 7BT UK

Tel: +44 1453 890333 Fax: +44 1453 890827

E-mail addresses: http://www.wwt.org.uk/contact/

WWW: http://www.wwt.org.uk/

British Trust for Ornithology The Nunnery

Nunnery Place Thetford Norfolk IP24 2PU

UK

Tel: +44-1842-750050 Fax: +44-1842-750030 E-mail: <u>info@bto.org</u> WWW: <u>http://www.bto.org/</u>

The Avian Demography Unit Department of Statistical Sciences University of Cape Town Rondebosch 7701 South Africa

Tel: +27 (021) 650 3219 Fax: +27 (021) 650 7578

E-mail addresses: http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/staff/p staff.htm

WWW. http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/

The European Bird Census Council WWW: http://zeus.nyf.hu/~szept/ebcc.htm

# **Training facilities**

Within the AEWA region, there are many facilities for training at different levels, ranging from three-day courses on various environmental topics for people with no prior knowledge, to Ph.D. level at universities. Many universities and institutes offer courses of varying lengths on wildlife management, site management, wetland ecology, sustainable development, ecotourism development, and many other related topics. UNEP maintains a database listing hundreds of courses. The Ramsar Convention Bureau maintains a list of environmental courses specifically aimed at wetland management. For information contact:

UNEP Directory on Environmental Education and Training Opportunities worldwide: <a href="http://www.unep.org/unep/products/publicat/education/index.htm">http://www.unep.org/unep/products/publicat/education/index.htm</a>

The Ramsar Convention Bureau Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland Tel: +41-22-999-0170; fax: +41-22-999-0169

E-mail: <a href="mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org">ramsar@ramsar.org</a>
<a href="http://www.ramsar.org">WWW: http://www.ramsar.org</a>

There are several schools in Africa that specifically offer education in wildlife management and site management. These are attended by wardens and reserve managers from all over the continent. The most important are:

Ecole de Faune de Garoua B.P. 271, Garoua, Cameroun

Tel/fax: +237-273135

College of African Wildlife Management Mweka, P.O. Box 3031, Moshi, Tanzania

Tel/fax: +255-55-51113 E-mail: ulgtan@eoltz.com

WWW: http://www.mwekawildlife.org/

Kenya Wildlife Training Institute P.O. Box 842, Naivasha, Kenya Tel: +254-0311-20267/21329

Fax: +254-0311-20577

E-mail: <a href="mailto:kwsti@users.africaonline.co.ke">kwsti@users.africaonline.co.ke</a>

Southern African Wildlife College

Private Bag X3015, Hoedspruit, 1380, South Africa

Tel/fax: +27-15-7932621 E-mail: <u>sawc@iafrica.com</u>

WWW: http://www.wildlifecollege.org.za/

Special wetland courses for managers from developing countries and countries with economies in transition are given by the Wetland Advisory and Training Centre (WATC) of the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA) of the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management. For information contact:

**WATC** 

P.O. Box 17, 8200 AA Lelystad, The Netherlands Tel: +31-320-298346; fax: +31-320-298339

E-mail: watc@riza.rws.minvenw.nl

IUCN also regularly organises short courses on wetland management at different levels, both for managers with little prior education and for decision makers at higher levels. These courses are given in the region (e.g. in West Africa). For information contact:

**IUCN** 

Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland Tel: +41-22-999-0001; fax: +41-22-999-0002

# Appendix I

# POPULATIONS OF WATERBIRDS REQUIRING NATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLANS

National Single Species Action Plans are required for all populations listed in Column A of Table 1 in the AEWA Action Plan (Paragraph 2.2.2 of the Action Plan). Populations are listed in Column A in one of three Categories:

- **Category 1:** (a) Species that are included in Appendix I to the Bonn Convention.
  - (b) Species that are listed as threatened in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals.
  - (c) Populations that number less than around 10,000 individuals.
- **Category 2:** Populations numbering between around 10,000 and around 25,000 individuals.
- **Category 3:** Populations numbering between around 25,000 and around 100,000 individuals and considered to be at risk as a result of:
  - (a) concentration onto a small number of sites at any stage of their annual cycle:
  - (b) dependence on a habitat type which is under severe threat;
  - (c) showing significant long-term decline; or
  - (d) showing extreme fluctuations in population size or trend.

Species listed include those included in the Action Plan by MoP 1 in Cape Town (November 1999) and MoP 2 in Bonn (September 2002). Categories are assigned on the basis of recent information on population sizes and trends, as summarised in the AEWA Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area (2002).

Species/subspecies	Population	Category
SPHENISCIDAE		
Spheniscus demersus	- Southern Africa	1b
GAVIIDAE		
Gavia immer	- Europe (win)	1c
Gavia adamsii		
	- Northern Europe (win)	1c
PODICIPEDIDAE		
Podiceps cristatus cristatus	- Caspian & South-west Asia (win)	2
Podiceps grisegena grisegena	- Caspian (win)	2
Podiceps cristatus infuscatus	- Eastern Africa (Ethiopia to N Zambia)	1c
	- Southern Africa	1c
Podiceps auritus auritus	- North-west Europe (large-billed)	1c
	- Caspian & South Asia (win)	2
Podiceps nigricollis gurneyi	- Southern Africa	2

PELECANIDAE		
Pelecanus onocrotalus	- Southern Africa	2
	- Europe & Western Asia (bre)	1a, 3c
Pelecanus crispus	- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)	1a, 1c
	- South-west Asia & South Asia (win)	1a, 2
SULIDAE		100,
Sula (Morus) capensis	- Southern Africa	1b
PHALACROCORACIDAE		-
Phalacrocorax coronatus	- Coastal South-west Africa	1c
Phalacrocorax neglectus	- Coastal South-west Africa	1b, 1c
Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus	- Coastal Southern Africa	2
Phalacrocorax nigrogularis	- Gulf & Arabian Sea	1b
3 - 3		
ARDEIDAE		
Egretta ardesiaca	- Sub-Saharan Africa	3c
Egretta vinaceigula	- South-central Africa	1b, 1c
Egretta gularis schistacea	- South-west Asia & South Asia	2
Egretta dimorpha	- Coastal Eastern Africa	2
Ardea purpurea purpurea	- West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa	2
Casmerodius albus albus	- W, C & SE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean	2
Bubulcus ibis ibis	- East Mediterranean & South-west Asia	2
Ardeola ralloides ralloides	- Medit., Black Sea & N Africa/Sub-Saharan Africa	3c
Ardeola idae	- Madagascar & Aldabra/Central & Eastern Africa	1b, 1c
Botaurus stellaris stellaris	- Europe (bre)	3c
	- South-west Asia (win)	2
Botaurus stellaris capensis	- Southern Africa	1c
,		
CICONIIDAE		
Ciconia nigra	- Southern Africa	1c
	- South-west Europe/West Africa	1c
	- Central & Eastern Europe/Sub-Saharan Africa	2
Ciconia ciconia ciconia	- Southern Africa	1c
	- Iberia & North-west Africa/Sub-Saharan Africa	3b
	- Western Asia/South-west Asia	2
BALAENICIPITIDAE		
Balaeniceps rex	- Central Tropical Africa	1c
THRESKIORNITHIDAE		
Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus	- Black Sea & Mediterranean/West Africa	3c
Geronticus eremita	- Morocco	1a, 1b, 1c
	- South-west Asia	1a, 1b, 1c
Threskiornis aethiopicus	- Iraq & Iran	1c
aethiopicus		
Platalea leucorodia leucorodia	- West Europe/West Mediterranean & West Africa	1c
	- Cent. & SE Europe/Mediterranean & Tropical	2
	Africa	
Platalea leucorodia archeri	- Red Sea & Somalia	1c
Platalea leucorodia balsaci	- Coastal West Africa (Mauritania)	1c
Platalea leucorodia major	- Western Asia/South-west & South Asia	2
Platalea alba	- Sub-Saharan Africa	2*

PHOENICOPTERIDAE		
Phoenicopterus ruber roseus	- West Africa	3a
	- Eastern Africa	3a
	- Southern Africa (to Madagascar)	3a
Phoenicopterus minor	- West Africa	2
	- Southern Africa (to Madagascar)	3a
ANATIDAE		
Thalassornis leuconotus	- West Africa	1c
leuconotus		
	- Eastern & Southern Africa	2*
Oxyura leucocephala	- West Mediterranean (Spain & Morocco)	1a, 1b, 1c
	- Algeria & Tunisia	1a, 1b, 1c
	- East Mediterranean, Turkey & South-west Asia	1a, 1b, 1c
Oxyura maccoa	- Eastern Africa	1c
	- Southern Africa	1c
Cygnus cygnus	- Iceland/UK & Ireland	2
	- N Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & E	2
	Mediterranean	
	- West & Central Siberia/Caspian	2
Cygnus columbianus bewickii	- Western Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe	3c
	- Northern Siberia/Caspian	1c
Anser albifrons albifrons	- Western Siberia/Central Europe	3c*
	- Northern Siberia/Caspian & Iraq	2
Anser albifrons flavirostris	- Greenland/Ireland & UK	3a
Anser erythropus	- N Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a, 1b, 2
Branta leucopsis	- Svalbard/South-west Scotland	2
Branta bernicla hrota	- Svalbard/Denmark & UK	1c
	- Canada & Greenland/Ireland	2
Branta ruficollis	- Northern Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a, 1b, 3a
Alopochen aegyptiacus	- West Africa	2
Tadorna ferruginea	- North-west Africa	1c
	- East Mediterranean & Black Sea/North-east Africa	2
Tadorna tadorna	- Black Sea & Mediterranean	3c
Nettapus auritus	- West Africa	1c
Anas capensis	- Eastern Africa (Rift Valley)	1c
	- Lake Chad basin	1c
Anas erythrorhyncha	- Madagascar	2
Anas hottentota	- Lake Chad Basin	1c
Marmaronetta angustirostris	- West Mediterranean/West Medit. & West Africa	1a, 1b, 1c
	- East Mediterranean	1a, 1b, 1c
Al III	- South-west Asia	1a, 1b, 2
Netta rufina	- Black Sea & East Mediterranean	3c
Aythya nyroca	- West Mediterranean/North & West Africa	1a, 1c
	- Eastern Europe/E Mediterranean & Sahelian Africa	1a, 3c
Debietista etalleri	- Western Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa	1a, 3c
Polysticta stelleri	- Western Siberia/North-east Europe	1a
Melanitta fusca fusca	- Black Sea & Caspian	1c
Bucephala clangula clangula	- Western Siberia & North-east Europe/Black Sea	2
Managallus alla alla a	- Western Siberia/Caspian	2
Mergellus albellus	- North-west & Central Europe (win)	3a
Manage	- Western Siberia/South-west Asia	3c
Mergus serrator serrator	- Western Siberia/South-west & Central Asia	1c

Mergus merganser merganser	- North-east Europe/Black Sea	1c
morgae morganeer morganeer	- Western Siberia/Caspian	2
		_
GRUIDAE		
Balearica pavonina pavonina	- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)	2
Balearica pavonina ceciliae	- Eastern Africa (Sudan to Uganda)	3c
Balearica regulorum regulorum	- Southern Africa (N to Angola & S Zimbabwe)	1c
Balearica regulorum gibbericeps	- Eastern Africa (Kenya to Mozambique)	3c
Grus leucogeranus	- Iran (win)	1a, 1b, 1c
Grus virgo	- Black Sea (Ukraine)/North-east Africa	1c
	- Turkey (bre)	1c
Grus paradisea	- Extreme Southern Africa	1b, 2
Grus carunculatus	- Central & Southern Africa	1b, 1c
Grus grus	- Eastern Europe/Turkey, Middle East & NE Africa	3c
	- Turkey & Georgia (bre)	1c
	Lamby at disorgia (are)	
RALLIDAE		
Sarothrura boehmi	- Central Africa	1c
Sarothrura ayresi	- Ethiopia and Southern Africa	1a, 1b, 1c
Crex crex	- Europe & Western Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa	1b
Porzana pusilla intermedia	- Europe (bre)	2
Aenigmatolimnas marginalis	- Sub-Saharan Africa	(2)
Fulica cristata	- Spain & Morocco	1c
T direct errotata	Spain a Morocco	
DROMADIDAE		
Dromas ardeola	- North-west Indian Ocean, Red Sea & Gulf	3a
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HAEMATOPODIDAE		
Haematopus moquini	- Coastal Southern Africa	1c
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RECURVIROSTRIDAE		
Himantopus himantopus	- Southern Africa ('meridionalis')	2
himantopus		
Recurvirostra avosetta	- Southern Africa	2
	- South-east Europe, Black Sea & Turkey (bre)	(3c)
	- West & South-west Asia/Eastern Africa	2
BURHINIDAE		
Burhinus senegalensis	- West Africa	(2)
senegalensis		
Burhinus senegalensis inornatus	- North-east & Eastern Africa	(2)
OLADEOLIDAE		
GLAREOLIDAE	Factor AC're	(0)
Pluvianus aegyptius aegyptius	- Eastern Africa	(2)
Glareola pratincola pratincola	- Western Europe & NW Africa/West Africa	2
Olevente	- Black Sea & E Mediterranean/Eastern Sahel zone	2
Glareola nordmanni	- SE Europe & Western Asia/Southern Africa	3b, 3c
Glareola ocularis	- Madagascar/East Africa	(2)
Glareola nuchalis liberiae	- West Africa	(2)
Glareola cinerea cinerea	- SE West Africa & Central Africa	(2)
OUADADDUDAE		
CHARADRIIDAE	District Indicate Day 100 Co.	0 +
Pluvialis apricaria apricaria	- Britain, Ireland, Denmark, Germany & Baltic (bre)	3c*
Charadrius pallidus pallidus	- Southern Africa	2

Charadrius pallidus venustus	- Eastern Africa	1c
Charadrius alexandrinus	- West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa	3c
alexandrinus		
	- Black Sea & East Mediterranean/Eastern Sahel	3c
Charadrius marginatus mechowi	- Southern & Eastern Africa	2
	- West to West-central Africa	2
Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus	- Turkey & SW Asia/E. Mediterranean & Red Sea	1c
Charadrius asiaticus	- SE Europe & West Asia/E & South-central Africa	3c
Eudromias morinellus	- Europe/North-west Africa	(3c)
Vanellus lugubris	- Southern West Africa	2
	- Central & Eastern Africa	3c
Vanellus melanopterus minor	- Southern Africa	1c
Vanellus coronatus coronatus	- Central Africa	(2)
Vanellus superciliosus	- West & Central Africa	(2)
Vanellus gregarius	- SE Europe & Western Asia/North-east Africa	1a, 1b, 1c
	- Central Asian Republics/NW India	1a, 1b, 1c
Vanellus leucurus	- SW Asia/SW Asia & North-east Africa	2
SCOLOPACIDAE		
Limosa limosa islandica	- Iceland/Western Europe	3a*
Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris	- South-west Asia/Eastern Africa	1c
Numenius tenuirostris	- Central Siberia/Mediterranean & SW Asia	1a, 1b, 1c
Numenius arquata orientalis	- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa	3c
Numenius arquata suschkini	- South-east Europe & South-west Asia (br e)	2
Calidris tenuirostris	- Eastern Siberia/SW Asia & W Southern Asia	1c
Calidris alpina schinzii	- Britain & Ireland/SW Europe & NW Africa	2
	- Baltic/SW Europe & NW Africa	1c
Calidris alpina arctica	- NE Greenland/West Africa	3a
Limicola falcinellus falcinellus	- Northern Europe/SW Asia & Africa	3c
LARIDAE		
Larus leucophthalmus	- Red Sea & nearby coasts	1a, 2
Larus audouinii	- Mediterranean/N & W coasts of Africa	1a, 3a
Larus armenicus	- Armenia, Eastern Turkey & NW Iran	3a
Larus ichthyaetus	- Black Sea & Caspian/South-west Asia	3a
Larus genei	- West Africa (bre)	2
Sterna nilotica nilotica	- Western Europe/West Africa	2
	- Black Sea & East Mediterranean/Eastern Africa	3c
	- West & Central Asia/South-west Asia	2
Sterna caspia caspia	- Southern Africa (bre)	1c
	- Europe (bre)	1c
	- Caspian (bre)	2
Sterna bengalensis par	- Red Sea/Eastern Africa	3a
Sterna bengalensis emigrata	- S Mediterranean/NW & West Africa coasts	1c
Sterna bergii bergii	- Southern Africa (Angola – Mozambique)	2
Sterna bergii enigma	- Madagascar & Mozambique/Southern Africa	1c
Sterna bergii thalassina	- Eastern Africa & Seychelles	1c
Sterna bergii velox	- Red Sea & North-east Africa	3a
Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis	- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)	3a, 3c
Sterna dougallii dougallii	- Southern Africa	1c
otoa adagam adagam	- East Africa	3a
	- Europe (bre)	1c
Sterna dougallii arideensis	- Madagascar, Seychelles & Mascarenes	2

Sterna dougallii bangsi	- North Arabian Sea (Oman)	1c
Sterna vittata vittata	- P.Edward, Marion, Crozet & Kerguelen/South	1c
	Africa	
Sterna vittata tristanensis	- Tristan da Cunha & Gough/South Africa	1c
Sterna albifrons albifrons	- Eastern Atlantic (bre)	3b
	- Black Sea & East Mediterranean (bre)	3c
	- Caspian (bre)	2
Sterna albifrons guineae	- West Africa (bre)	1c
Sterna balaenarum	- Namibia & South Africa/Atlantic coast to Ghana	2
Chlidonias hybridus hybridus	- Western Europe & North-west Africa (bre)	3c
Chlidonias hybridus sclateri	- Eastern Africa (Kenya & Tanzania)	1c
	- Southern Africa (Malawi & Zambia to South Africa)	(2)
RYNCHOPIDAE		
Rynchops flavirostris	- Coastal West Africa & Central Africa	2
	- Eastern & Southern Africa	2

#### Footnotes:

- Suffixes (breeding) or (wintering) in population listings are solely aides to population identification. They
  do not indicate seasonal restrictions to actions in respect of these populations under the Agreement and
  Action Plan.
- 2. *Vanellus gregarius* is listed under the name *Chettusia gregaria* in Appendix I to the Bonn Convention.

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