

## **ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) forms part of the International Waterbird Census (IWC), a global programme coordinated by Wetlands International since 1967. The AWC was launched in 1987 and has grown considerably in geographic coverage and participation. More information is available on <http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/waterbirdstrategy/default.htm>

The AWC is coordinated and implemented through a network of observers, national and sub-national coordinators (all volunteers) and one international coordinator. The AWC International Coordinator is employed by Wetlands International to coordinate the census in close communication and cooperation with the national and sub-national AWC Coordinators. Within Wetlands International the AWC coordinator works in close cooperation with the Global Coordinator for IWC and with the Programme Head for Wetlands Species Conservation.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### Overall responsibilities

Coordinate and develop the AWC as a part of the global IWC programme, within the framework of the Wetland Species Conservation Programme of Wetlands International.

1. Encourage all countries in the AWC region to develop a sustainable national network to monitor waterbirds and their wetland habitats and promote their conservation through participation in the AWC.
2. Support national and sub-national coordinators to strengthen local networks, census activities and conservation efforts. Identify and appoint new national and sub-national coordinators where needed. Ensure effective decentralised co-ordination and provide assistance where necessary to national and sub-national co-ordinators to set up and organise the network.
3. Ensure long-term sustainability of the activities by raising funds to cover core running costs, in cooperation with the Global Coordinator for IWC and with the Programme Head for Wetland Species Conservation Programme.
4. Report to appropriate international and regional conventions, programmes and initiatives as well as partner organisations, on the development of the AWC. For example, to the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee, BirdLife International etc.

#### Co-ordination, networking, reporting and data management

5. Develop and maintain a national and sub-national co-ordinators network of enthusiastic and skilled volunteers and professionals to co-ordinate the AWC in every country in the AWC region.
6. Develop an annual workplan for the AWC.
7. Coordinate and undertake collection and retrieval of AWC data relating to sites and counts from the national co-ordinators into a computerised database, on a routine, annual basis.
8. Maintain an up to date database of waterbird count information for the AWC region to act as a scientific basis for waterbird and wetland conservation in the region. Provide data and information to partners, and undertake analyses on their behalf as appropriate.
9. Compile and disseminate regular reports on AWC as feed back to the AWC network, primarily as an overview of status of waterbirds and their wetland habitats. Publish results of long-term monitoring and trend analysis of waterbird populations and ensure rapid dissemination of the information.

## Responsibilities of the AWC International Coordinator

### Enhancement of public awareness

10. Co-ordinate and encourage publicising of results of the AWC and related events to the general public through development of the AWC website, newsletter, brochure, posters, and other media.
11. Publicise technical outputs of the programme by producing and disseminating regional reports highlighting activities and results of the annual census.
12. Provide accurate and up-to-date information to Multilateral Environment Agreements, international- and national government conservation agencies and non-governmental organisations on conditions of waterbird populations and wetlands covered by the programme.

### Training and capacity enhancement

13. Work with the Global IWC Coordinator to develop, adapt and produce AWC training materials and manuals for waterbird and wetland monitoring for use by participants in the census.
14. Facilitate training of network members in waterbird and wetland identification, assessment and monitoring techniques through organisation of workshops and training courses.