

# African Waterbird

## Census

Newsletter No.5, July 2011

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### Update on the status of the IWC & AfWC

Following from a meeting of members in Edinburgh this year, Wetlands International has committed to major changes in the governance of the International Waterbird Census and its relation with other waterbird monitoring schemes. More details are available from our new [Waterbird Forum](#). We are still in the midst of this process, but would like to take the opportunity to outline how these changes relate to all of your efforts in contributing to the African Waterbird Census.

#### Reorganisation of the IWC

The International Waterbird Census went through an external review funded by the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee in 2009 and 2010. In reflection to the outcomes of the review, Wetlands International has implemented a reorganisation of the coordination of the scheme. After the completion of his role as Regional Waterbird Officer for Eastern and Southern Africa under the framework of the Wings Over Wetlands Project, Oliver Nasirwa has started working on a new project of Wetlands International in East Africa and his regional coordination role has been taken over by the Wetlands International HQ, where **Stephan Flink** (Technical Officer) and **Tom Langendoen** (Technical Assistant) are working on adding your data submissions from the AfWC to the IWC database. Pending on the success of our fundraising efforts, we will continue working with Oliver, Moussa Diop and Tim Dodman on capacity building and regional coordination.

### Re-establishing contact with African National Coordinators

Without the efforts of the African National Coordinators, their support staff and network of volunteer counters, the AfWC could not exist. Regular communication and feedback from Wetlands International are crucial to emphasise the great value and our appreciation of all your efforts. Our new team started establishing contacts with African National IWC Coordinators through an online questionnaire, available in [English](#) and [French](#). To date we have received responses to the IWC questionnaire from National Coordinators in Botswana, Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, South Africa, South Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. We are following up with telephone calls to each National Coordinator. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage other National Coordinators to complete the questionnaire, so we can better understand the status and challenges facing counters and coordinators in each contributing country in Africa. Being aware of the importance of personal meetings for creating a coherent network and scheme, we have also started discussions with the PAOC about having a side event or evening session for National IWC Coordinators from Africa. We will keep you informed of developments.

#### Call for logos of National Coordinator's organisations

As part of the changes to the IWC, we would like to explicitly recognise the huge contribution of National Coordinators and counters to the IWC. To this end, we kindly request National Coordinators to send logos of their organisations to us, so that we can display them on our website and reports. Please send your logos to [tom.langendoen@wetlands.org](mailto:tom.langendoen@wetlands.org).



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### Annual National Totals

As part of our commitment to regular feedback for National Coordinators and counters, Wetlands International will be publishing annual national totals for all countries in the Africa-Eurasian flyway that submit data before 30th September each year. These totals will be available on our website from mid December in a format similar to the one produced last year for the [Western Palearctic](#).

### AEWA Conservation Status Report

This year, Wetlands International has been busy working on the 5th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report, the official assessment that informs the decision-making on the listing of migratory waterbird populations on Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan, which in turn determines the conservation measures countries should take for their protection and sustainable management. The [consultation draft](#) of the report is available on the website of Wetlands International. The report not only highlights the outstanding importance of the African continent for the conservation of migratory waterbird populations, but also makes a strong case for the further development of waterbird monitoring activities in the region. It is very encouraging that AfWC contains enough data to produce statistically valid trend analyses for the populations that are restricted to Southern Africa. However, still a lot of development is needed in other parts of the continent.

### The Wings Over Wetlands Project completed

In the end of 2010, the Wings Over Wetlands Project was completed. The project has left some lasting legacies, such as the Critical Site Network Tool that makes waterbird related information more easily accessible. A new article, "[Cool Tool](#)" will appear in the next issue of Africa Birds & Birding on the [CSN Tool](#), prepared by Tim Dodman. We trust this article will be useful in raising awareness of the CSN in Africa and elsewhere amongst the birding community. This network is crucial in providing new information through the African Waterbird Census and IBA programme, which enhances its value to a wide range of sectors – conservation, land use planning, etc.

In addition, the [Flyway Training Kit](#), produced by Tim Dodman and Gerard Boere as lead authors, is also available in English, French and Arabic.



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