

News from the International Waterbird Census African-Eurasian Region Issue no. 1 – October 2011



PO BOX 471
6700 AL Wageningen
The Netherlands
Tel. +31 318 660910
Fax +31 318 660950
E-mail: post@wetlands.org
www.wetlands.org

Newsletter for national waterbird monitoring coordinators and other interested parties

The main purpose of this newsletter is to keep coordinators of national waterbird monitoring schemes in Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia up-to-date with developments in the International Waterbird Census (IWC). It is recommended that national coordinators distribute it to interested others in their country. This newsletter was compiled at Wetlands International's headquarters in Ede, The Netherlands. If you have questions, comments or IWC data to submit, please contact Tom Langendoen through email (tom.langendoen@wetlands.org), phone (+(31) 0318-660921) or skype ([tom_langendoen](https://www.skype.com/name/tom_langendoen)). General information on waterbird monitoring is also available through Wetlands International's [Waterbird Forum](#).

Waterbird forum

We recognise that regular feedback must be given to national coordinators and counters. Consequently, we have established the [Waterbird Forum](#) on the Wetlands International website. The forum is used to share important news and documents and to facilitate discussions throughout the waterbird specialist network. The forum includes:

- Guidance on waterbird monitoring, including a monitoring field guide by Simon Delany.
- Information on available funding opportunities,
- Wetlands International products using IWC data, such as annual national total reports.
- Detailed information on the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership and recent changes in the IWC coordination structure.

To participate on the forum, you will need to register on our website. Please follow instructions on the forum website and registration page.

IWC Coordination

Last year saw a number of significant changes in the coordination of the International Waterbird Census. Wetlands International stopped the contract with Simon Delany which was a difficult decision to take but necessitated by funding problems and the need for a different approach for the IWC. Despite this, we would like to acknowledge Simon's hard work for the IWC over many years and his many achievements under sometimes difficult circumstances. In the new situation it was decided that coordination of the IWC will be more streamlined according to flyways. That means that we will concentrate the coordination of the IWC in this part of the world on the whole African, Europe and West Asian region.

We will develop waterbird monitoring activities even more in partnership with other organisations than in the past. To this end, the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership was established in June 2011. The Partnership brings together many actors (AEWA, *Wetlands International*, *BirdLife International*, *European Bird Census Council*, *Specialist groups*, *Tour du Valat*, *SOVON*, *Aarhus University*, *BTO*, *Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust* and *FACE*) to share their expertise and improve the quality and consistency, not only for the International Waterbird Census, but for the entire waterbird monitoring programme. For more information on the Partnership, please refer to Wetlands International's [Waterbird Forum](#).

Status of the IWC in the African-Eurasian flyways

Questionnaire

As part of the IWC Coordination restructuring, in May Wetlands International sent out a questionnaire in English or French to national coordinators across the African-Eurasian region. We received 42 responses to the questionnaire, as well as a number of email responses. Where possible, we have followed up with telephone calls. This process has been invaluable in re-establishing some personal contact between WI staff and national coordinators, as well as giving us an insight into the current status of the IWC across the flyway. A summary report of the questionnaire responses is available from Wetlands International's [Waterbird Forum](#).

If any national coordinators did not receive the questionnaire and would still like to contribute, please contact tom.langendoen@wetlands.org.

News from the International Waterbird Census African-Eurasian Region

IWC data and yearly reports

We will be publishing annual national totals for all countries in the Africa-Eurasian flyway that have submitted data in a useable format before 30th September each year. We cannot guarantee that data received after this date will be incorporated, but we will do our best to include as many countries data as possible. These totals will be available on the forum from mid December. The year of the last data currently received per country is illustrated in the maps on the right.

! IF NATIONAL COORDINATORS CAN PROVIDE MORE RECENT INFORMATION FOR THEIR COUNTRIES, PLEASE SEND THE DATA IN A SUITABLE FORMAT TO TOM.LANGENDOEN@WETLANDS.ORG. WE WILL FOLLOW UP IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS TO ENSURE THE COUNTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE IWC DATABASE.

AEWA Conservation Status Report

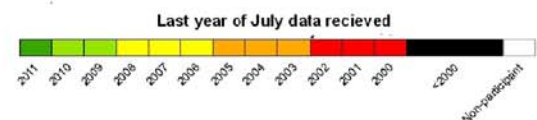
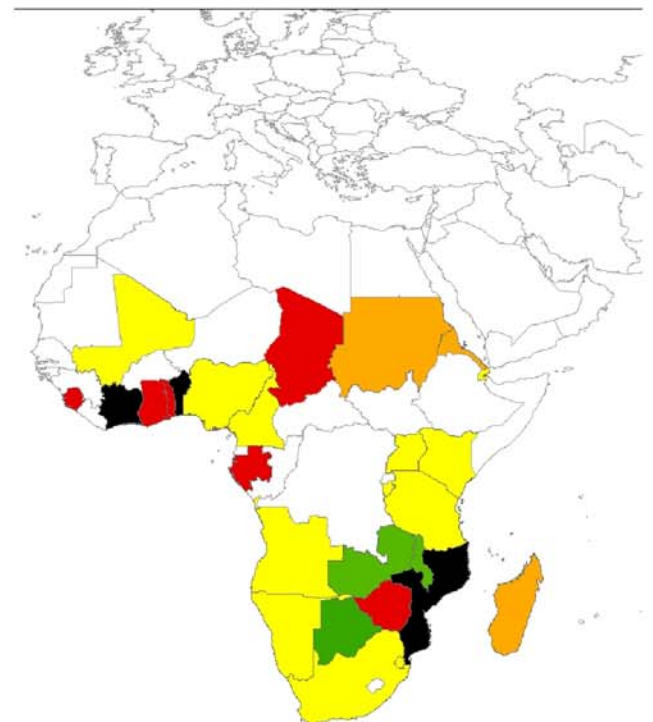
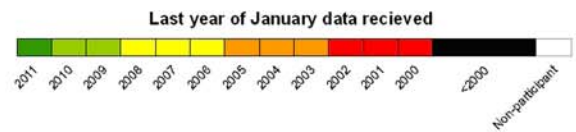
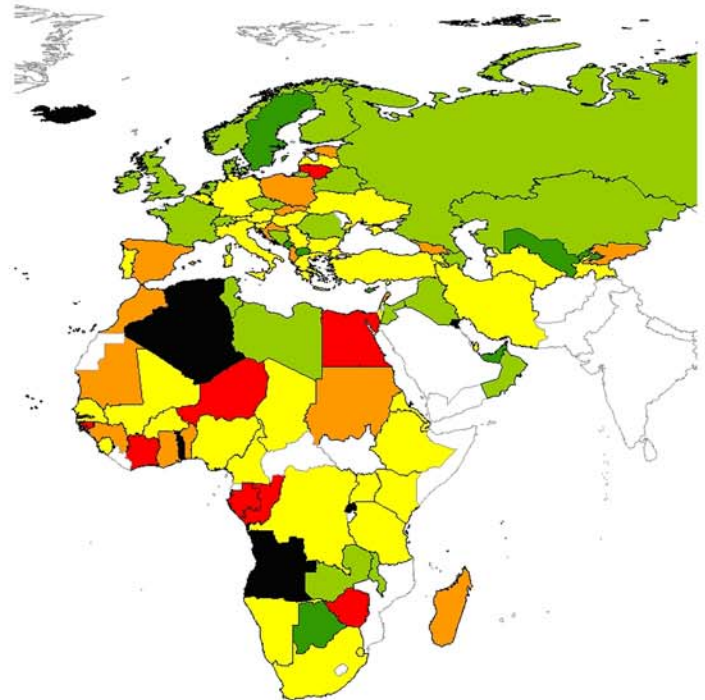
This year, Wetlands International has been busy working on the 5th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report, the official assessment that informs the decision-making on the listing of migratory waterbird populations on Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan, which

in turn determines the conservation measures countries should take for their protection and sustainable management. The report was recently commented upon by the AEWA technical committee and is on schedule to be released at next years AEWA MoP. Although the number of populations that can now be estimated with IWC data is increasing, reliable analysis at the

flyway level can only be undertaken with good coverage across the African-Eurasian flyway. A key finding of the report was that more targeted efforts are needed to strengthen monitoring activities particularly in Western Asia and Africa to improve the validity of future analyses.

Finally...

Many thanks to national coordinators and counters continued efforts in contributing waterbird counts for the IWC. We wish you all success for the upcoming January counts.



Count dates: January 2012

Please note the recommended dates for the IWC counts in 2012 are:

14th - 15th January 2012

Recommendations for the counts:

- For the convenience of volunteer counters, the recommended dates cover the traditional weekend nearest the middle of January. These dates are for guidance only and counts from any date in January are very welcome.
- Please submit your data in the standard manner recommended by Wetlands International, using the same site names and site codes as previous years, and providing details of any changes in, or additions to the sites visited.