Capacity building and interactive knowledge transfer along the East Atlantic Flyway

Wadden Sea Day 2019
World Heritage Interpretation

How to transfer knowledge on the Wadden Sea World Heritage

Tim Dodman
Wilhelmshaven, 29th August 2019
Outline of ‘presentation’

• The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative & World Heritage

• WSFI Capacity-building along the East Atlantic Flyway

• ‘The Migration Challenge’
Inscription by UNESCO WHC in 2009, with request: ... to strengthen cooperation in management and research activities with States Parties on the African Eurasian Flyways, which play a significant role in conserving migratory birds along these flyways.

Consequences for Wadden Sea World Heritage:
• Worldwide recognition of importance of the Wadden Sea for migratory birds
• A responsibility to conserve migratory birds along the flyways
• International cooperation
WSFI Objective: Intensify cooperation to protect waterbirds along the African-Eurasian Flyway, with a special focus on capacity-building, improvement of area management and sustainable development.
Central position of the Wadden Sea on the East Atlantic Flyway

The Wadden Sea links sites in Africa with Europe and the Arctic
WSFI Capacity Building 2018 & 2019

- Enhancing Sustainable Management
- Strengthening World Heritage
- Improving management of tidal flats
- National & regional training workshops
- Participatory awareness
- Strengthening wetland centres
- Community-based site activities

Project focal sites to date
Waterbird counts and site monitoring

STATE
Quantity and quality of IBAs

PRESSURE
Threats to IBAs

RESPONSE
Actions at IBAs
Unequal capacity for monitoring
Principal WSFI Activities:

1. Develop framework of cooperation

- WSFI vision
- Strengthen WSFI network along flyway
- Partnership approach
2. Capacity-building materials e.g. African East Atlantic Flyway Guide

- Free photographic Africa field guide
- Focus on waterbirds
- Highlights migration & flyways
- Support to monitoring objectives
- Covers Morocco to South Africa
- Trilingual; image-rich
- Flyway maps
3. Implement capacity-building

a. National courses: e.g. Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Morocco, Equatorial Guinea

Mainly focused on flyway conservation & waterbird monitoring, with ‘classroom’ and field training
b. Regional courses: Mauritania, Senegal, Angola
c. Awareness: community activities & exchange

WMBD (World Migratory Bird Day)
Awareness-raising in Ghana

Exchange Angola-Namibia
4. Management & ecotourism:

- local projects in Guinea-Bissau, Togo, Cameroon, Angola and wetland centres (Senegal, Nigeria)
The importance of interactive knowledge transfer

Flyway Training Kit

- Draw a Flyway
- Migration Challenge
- Role plays
- ... and more