

International Co-operation For the Protection of Waterbirds Along their Flyways



Common Wadden Sea Secretariat



Trainees at Yawri Bay, Sierra Leone, during the national training course, January 2013

Activities Report January – June 2013

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Introduction

The project *International Co-operation for the Protection of Waterbirds along their Flyways*, which aims at intensifying co-operation for the protection of waterbirds along the African-Eurasian Flyway, started in January 2012, following on from planning meetings and development during 2011. The project is financed by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment & Nature Conservation (BMU).

The main events in the first half of 2013 were two national training courses, in Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau, whilst plans were set in place for a photographic field guide for the East Atlantic Flyway in Africa to cover the main waterbirds, as well as introducing coastal wetlands and migration.

Project Activities

Phase 1: Development of concepts and specifications

- Development of a framework of co-operation in the areas of management and research along the African-Eurasian Flyway
The Task Group World Heritage approved the flyway vision and agreed that it should be developed into a specific draft agreement/ MoU to be signed by the relevant partners to support the continuation of the flyway initiative at a side event at the Tønder Conference. The next stage is the development of an action plan for the implementation of the flyway vision, after which attention will be given to developing the framework of co-operation, which will serve as the practical tomeans for delivery of the the action plan. These steps will receive attention in July-September 2013.
- Development of a capacity-building concept for the East Atlantic Flyway
Two national training courses were delivered in January 2013 (see below). The evaluation of these courses is guiding development of the capacity-building concept, whilst WSFI is awaiting a first draft of an agreed new training package focused on wetland management for migratory birds, being developed by West African consultants in partnership with CMB and Wetlands International Africa.
- Establishment of a supporting project advisory group
The next meeting is planned for September 2013.

Phase 2: Organisation and implementation planning

- Project inception meeting
Carried out in 2012.
- Selection of a defined project area
Carried out in 2012 for project. The area to be covered by the waterbird guide was discussed / decided, with work divisions proposed accordingly.
- Identification of potential target groups and planning for implementation of capacity-building activities
This is an ongoing activity supporting the planning and delivery of capacity-building. Community representatives participated in both courses in January 2013, whilst an exchange was built into the course in Sierra Leone, with the participation of three trainees from neighbouring Liberia.
- Identification of monitoring and research needs in the selected area
The WSFI capacity-building project works hand in hand with the WSFI monitoring project. This included input to planning 2013 January surveys and delivery of equipment.

Phase 3: Implementation

- Planning for delivery of capacity-building

Joint training events were planned with Wetlands International and BirdLife International for the PRCM region under the CMB project, and these were carried out in January-March 2013. The CMB project conducted courses in Senegal and Guinea.

The development of a regional photographic guide to waterbirds of the East Atlantic Flyway in Africa took significant steps forward during the first 6 months of 2013. After a number of exchanges between partners, a joint approach was agreed with support pledged from both WSFI projects and the CMB. The WSFI-capacity building project took the lead in developing the contract and terms of reference for the work, which will be carried out principally by Paul Robinson and Clive Barlow, based in Senegal and The Gambia respectively.

- Implementation of capacity-building programme

Two national training courses were conducted, and both seemed to have been very successful, and also marked direct support by the WSFI to African partners.

a. Guinea-Bissau

The course in Guinea-Bissau was held on Bubaque Island in the Bijagós Archipelago and led by Paulo Catry. All training was delivered in Portuguese, the national language. Some



new training materials were also developed, available for the first time in Portuguese. The training included introducing the flyway approach to conservation, waterbird identification and counting, helping to consolidate a national waterbird monitoring network. The training course was followed immediately by surveys supported in part by the WSFI-monitoring project.

Fieldwork in the Bijagós definitely requires getting your feet wet!; 2 participants during the training

b. Sierra Leone

This was the first waterbird and wetland training course to take place in Sierra Leone, and was organised by the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone. It took place at Kent, a small coastal village close to the extensive Yawri Bay – one of the country's most extensive coastal wetlands. The group included three trainees from Liberia, promoting cross-boundary exchange.

The course covered the flyway approach to conservation, network development and coordination, waterbird identification and counting and wetland inventory. It included practical field trips to different coastal sites.

