

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 9

9-10 October 2013

Groningen



Agenda Item:	6
Subject:	Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative
Document No.	WSB 9/6/3
Date:	1 October 2013
Submitted by:	CWSS

Attached is a progress report on the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) project

Proposal

The meeting is proposed to note the report and to discuss and decide upon the proposed signing ceremony (page 2), as well as the proposed amendments to §§ 10-12 of the draft MCD (page 3)

Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI)

Status of the WSFI

The monitoring and capacity building projects (2012-2015) of the WSFI made substantial and successful progress in 2013. Several capacity building and monitoring workshops have been carried out in West-Africa, a monitoring strategy for the whole East Atlantic Flyway and a monitoring strategy for West-Africa has been developed and the flyway vision has been prepared. Detailed information can be found on the [WSFI website](#).

The Steering Group and the Advisory Board (Annex 2) of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) held a back to back meeting in Wilhelmshaven on 23-24 September 2013. Both meetings revised the WSFI action plan 2014-2020, proposed amendments of the relevant chapters of the flyway cooperation listed in the draft Ministerial Council Declaration and proposed the twinning of the Wadden Sea with the World Heritage site Banc d'Arguin.

WSFI action plan 2014-2020

The WSFI Advisory Board endorsed the attached version of the action plan (**Annex 1**) although smaller amendments will still be added. The action plan gives an overview on the status of the WSFI, shows the key flyway issues, lists the international framework in which it is embedded and proposes clear actions including priority and estimated effort for the period 2014-2020.

The meeting suggested a signing ceremony for the WSFI flyway vision and action plan at the Trilateral Governmental Conference in Tønder, Denmark on 5 February, 2014. The ceremony should contain an animation showing the importance of the Wadden Sea for the East Atlantic Flyway (EAF), a presentation of the WSFI and the signing itself. A well-known African keynote speaker active in bird conservation in West Africa should be invited for the ceremony to accentuate the flyway perspective.

The Advisory Board proposed that the signing of the flyway vision and action plan should be an on-going process with proposed partners listed below and starting at the TGC. Further potential partners should have the possibility to sign at international events like the next AEWA/MOP, CMS/COP and at major events in the Wadden Sea or at other sites along the flyway.

Potential signatories of flyway vision and action plan should range from international to local level along the EAF.

- AEWA, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and their regional representatives in Africa will represent an international partnership network for the WSFI. The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) would complete the international support of the action plan to the northern arctic areas of the EAF.
- Signatures of other World Heritage sites important for flyway conservation like the Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania, Doñana in Spain and the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary in Senegal would also strengthen the WSFI action plan and support the principles of the UNESCO.
- Regional and local organisations and stakeholders in the Wadden Sea area like the National Parks, NABU, Vogelbescherming, Dansk Ornitologisk Forening and others but also provinces, rural districts and municipalities should sign to raise awareness and support for the flyway vision and the action plan.

Flyway cooperation in the Ministerial Council Declaration

The WSFI Advisory Board discussed the flyway relevant paragraphs of the latest draft version of the Ministerial Council Declaration and proposed the following amendments:

Flyway Cooperation

10. Acknowledge the global importance of the Wadden Sea for migratory bird populations being a key feature of the Wadden Sea World Heritage, noting with concern that many are in decline.
11. Appreciate the progress made within the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative, e.g. consolidating a network for migratory bird conservation, including capacity building, monitoring, and developing status assessments at the flyway level, initiated in response to the decision of the World Heritage Committee to strengthen cooperation on management and research on the African Eurasian Flyways with relevant state parties.
12. Agree to continue and where necessary expand the cooperation on management and research along the East Atlantic Flyway as outlined in the vision and action plan in Annex 3, shared by relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Twinning Wadden Sea with Banc d' Arguin

The WSFI Advisory Board agrees on twinning the World Heritage sites Banc d'Arguin and the Wadden Sea. The share of experience, information and management in flyway waterbird conservation and the international attention given by twinning would strengthen the potentially threatened Banc d'Arguin, would also benefit the Wadden Sea and support the work of the UNESCO.

The Advisory Board proposed also twinning efforts on National Park or on even more local level.

Annex 1

Draft (v. 01-10-2013)

Action Plan Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative 2014-2020



1. Introduction

This proposed action plan has been prepared by the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) for presentation and adoption at the 12th Trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference in 2014, along with the WSFI Flyway Vision. The plan incorporates conclusions of a regional stakeholder workshop held in Wilhelmshaven in March 2011 and results of the initial WSFI projects mainly focussing on West Africa (2012 – 2014), achieved in cooperation with BirdLife's Conservation of Migratory Birds (CMB) project in the same region. The WSFI and CMB project activities have included a number of workshops and consultations within West Africa, which have strengthened stakeholder input to the development of this Action plan.

2. Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

a. Rationale

In 2009 UNESCO placed the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List recognizing the crucial importance of the site for the survival of migratory birds on a global scale. On the inscription of the Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List the World Heritage Committee (WHC) requested the State Parties Germany and The Netherlands *"... to strengthen cooperation on management and research activities with States Parties on the African Eurasian Flyways, which play a significant role in conserving migratory species along these flyways."* The 11th Wadden Sea Ministerial Conference at Sylt in 2010 agreed to engage in a close cooperation with the African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) to promote and strengthen cooperation on management and research with relevant state parties and establish cooperation for the protection and management of migratory birds relying on the Wadden Sea. Thus, both countries have now an enhanced responsibility to strengthen cooperation with other countries for the conservation of migratory birds, especially along the East Atlantic Flyway which is most important for Wadden Sea populations. Since Denmark nominated the Danish Wadden Sea also as World Heritage site in 2013 it is also participating in the WSFI.

b. Wilhelmshaven workshop March 2011

As a follow up, in March 2011, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) organised an international stakeholder workshop of migratory bird experts from Europe, several African countries, the U.S. and Russia and international NGOs, with the support of responsible government ministries. The workshop recommended developing a flyway vision on the implementation of the WHC request, an integrated monitoring and capacity building programme, improving site management at the local level and developing in-depth research for gaps in knowledge.

c. Launch of the WSFI and its initial projects

On the basis of the workshop recommendations the state parties launched the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) to put the enhanced international responsibility of the Wadden Sea states into action, with a monitoring and a capacity building project. The aims of the WSFI are to support the

conservation of migratory waterbirds in the East Atlantic Flyway, to obtain more detailed monitoring data to inform and support policy and management and to develop a long-term perspective for the cooperation of the Wadden Sea with countries along the whole flyway. The projects, which run from 2012 - 2014, are funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment (capacity building project) and the Dutch Ministry of Economic affairs through the programme *Rich Wadden Sea* (monitoring project) and are focussing on West Africa. The projects are guided by a Steering Group and an Advisory Board. A WSFI/CMB communication plan, a flyway monitoring strategy, website and other planned outcomes of the projects have been drafted. The WSFI will be presented at the TGC 2014.

d. WSFI Vision

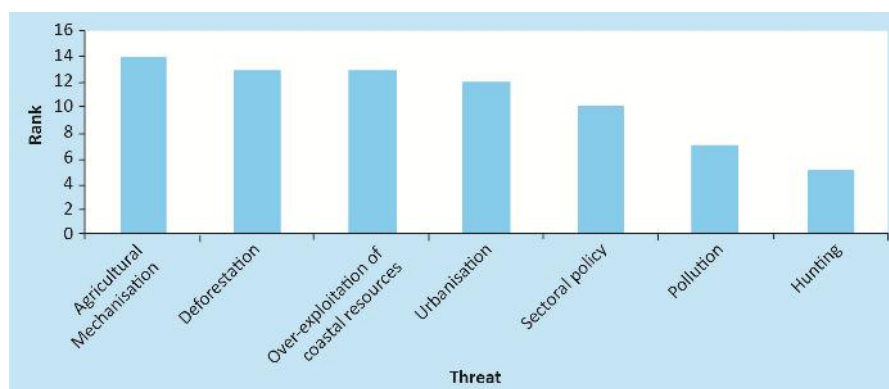
Project partners have contributed to the development of a draft WSFI Vision, which should serve as a guiding principle to strengthen cooperation across the flyway on the conservation, management and research of migratory birds that depend on the Wadden Sea. The recommended vision has been developed and adopted by the Task Group World Heritage and the Wadden Sea Board. The Vision is awaiting full endorsement of the Trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation, other flyway states and relevant stakeholders. The vision states that “migratory birds find lasting refuge along the East Atlantic Flyway from northern breeding areas to their key Wadden Sea stopover and to the African coastline, and inspire and connect people for future generations”.

This Action Plan is designed to serve as a framework for implementing the WSFI Vision, through a set of six-year priority objectives and supporting actions.

3. Key Flyway Issues

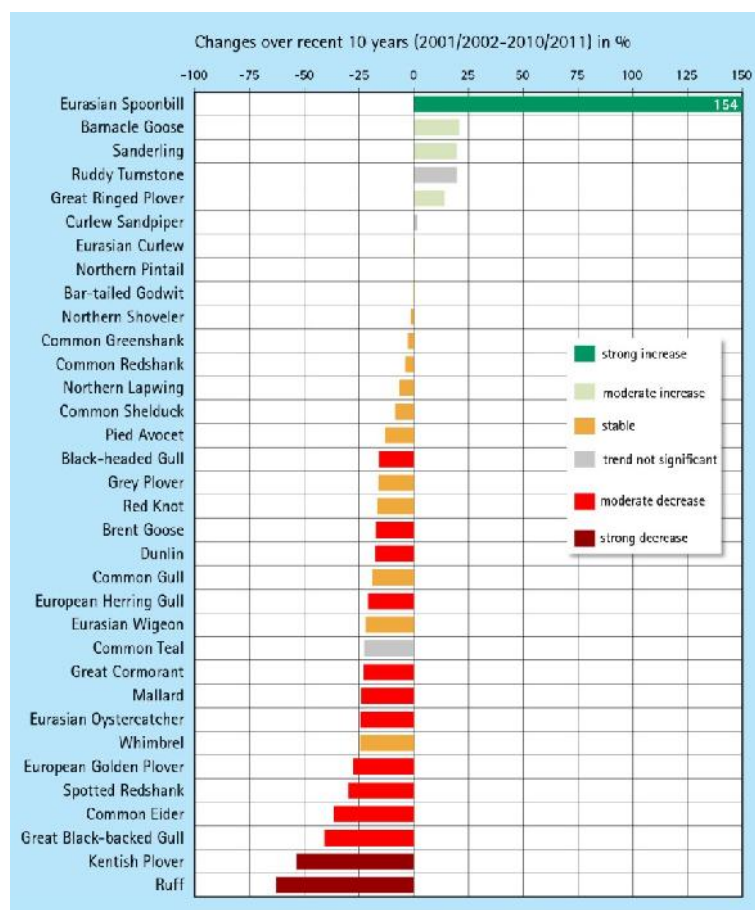
The East Atlantic Flyway is a vast zone from the Arctic tundra to European coastal wetlands and mudflats, such as the Wadden Sea, to a wide range of coastal wetlands along the western coast of Africa. As such, a myriad of issues impact on the status of migratory birds and their habitats, and on the productivity of this coastal zone for human livelihoods. Fishing is a key activity along the flyway, with over-fishing widespread. In northern parts in particular the impacts of climatic change are being widely felt, with decreasing marine productivity in some areas causing shifts in bird distribution. In such instances, coastal zone birds are strong indicators of the state of the seas.

The main focus area of the initial WSFI projects has been West Africa, where there is limited capacity and resources to manage and monitor coastal wetlands and waterbirds. The main threats to migratory birds in the coastal zone of West Africa identified by participants of the CMB project development workshop (held in Dakar, Senegal, November 2009) were agricultural mechanisation, deforestation (including cutting mangroves), general over-exploitation of coastal resources and urbanisation, as shown below (rank = number of ‘votes’):



According to the review made by BirdLife International (in prep.) the populations of 116 of the 326 migratory bird species (36%) using West Africa are currently declining globally, whilst 24 (7%) are classified as globally threatened or Near Threatened. For migratory waterbird populations, there is a large decline in wintering and breeding waterbird populations of the Wadden Sea and other sites along the East Atlantic Flyway as well.

Trend categories for the 10-year period for the International Wadden Sea on yearly estimates, ranked after trend category and value (JMWB 2013).



Several of the over-arching threats given here have their main impacts at the site level, especially the conversion of coastal wetlands to development, pollution and over-exploitation of natural resources.

4. International Policies and On-going Activities

4.1 International Policies

a. World Heritage Convention

The Dutch and German parts of the Wadden Sea were designated on the list of designated World Heritage Sites in June 2009, whilst preparation for designation of the Danish part is underway. It is the formal request of the WHC to The Netherlands and Germany 'to strengthen activities in the fields of cooperation, research and management along the African-Eurasian Flyway' that strongly influences this Action Plan. Other natural World Heritage Sites vital for migratory waterbirds along the East Atlantic Flyway include the Banc d'Arguin (Mauritania), Djoudj (Senegal), Doñana (Spain), whilst some cultural World Heritage Sites are also important for migratory birds, e.g. Saloum (Senegal). Preparations for the designation of Bijagos (Guinea-Bissau) are underway.

b. EU Birds Directive

The Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) was adopted in 1979 and aims at the protection of all species of naturally occurring birds in the territory of the member states. According to the Birds Directive, member states must classify the most suitable territories for the conservation of the species listed in the Annex 1 of the Directive, as 'Special Protection Areas' (SPAs). Basically, the entire Wadden Sea Area has been designated as SPA. Exceptions are the main shipping lanes and some adjacent offshore areas.

c. African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)

AEWA, an agreement under the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS), is the principal international policy instrument focused on migratory waterbirds, and thus serves as a crucial element of any flyway-level activities. The AEWA Meeting of Parties adopted as implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan in Africa the Plan of Action for Africa in 2012, which sets out a range of key targets and actions for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa. The Plan of Action for Africa is a key guiding document for this Action Plan. The French and German government provides technical support to the AEWA African Initiative, which aims to implement the Plan of Action for Africa.

d. The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

As one of the earliest international environmental agreements, Ramsar has great significance along the East Atlantic Flyway, and most countries are members of the Convention. Its principles for the wise use of wetlands and its resolution of 2008 on flyway conservation have strong relevance for the implementation of this Action Plan. Several of the internationally important wetlands for migratory waterbirds along this flyway are also designated as Ramsar Sites, including Wadden Sea, Banc d'Arguin (Mauritania), Djoudj (Senegal), Doñana (Spain), Onega Bay and Berezovye islands (Russia), Vilsandi archipelago (Latvia), Falsterbo Bay (Sweden) and Porsanger fjord (Norway).

e. Wadden Sea policies

The 2010 Wadden Sea Plan (WSP) constitutes the common framework for the protection and sustainable management of the Wadden Sea as an ecological entity. The Bird Targets of the WSP are consistent with the Natura 2000 conservation objectives and with the World Heritage criterion 'X', which requires the most important natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including threatened species of outstanding universal value. The WSP Bird Targets require among others stable and increasing numbers of birds, undisturbed and suitable breeding, feeding, moulting and roosting sites and living conditions determined by natural processes. The Joint Monitoring of Migratory Birds (JMMB) and Breeding Birds (JMBB) programme within the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program (TMAP) delivers the necessary data for the Wadden Sea Quality Status Report (QSR) to assess the Targets. Results of the assessments have influence on further management measures.

f. Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme for West Africa (PRCM)

The PRCM is an initiative of four international NGOs active in West Africa - the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Wetlands International and the International Foundation of the Banc d'Arguin (FIBA), in partnership with the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (CSRFP). Geographically, the Programme covers seven countries - Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, and Sierra Leone - with which IUCN has signed contracts on behalf of PRCM founding NGOs. The goal of the PRCM is to coordinate the efforts made by institutions and private individuals to preserve the littoral of coastal countries in the sub-region.

The coastal zone activities of IUCN, WWF, Wetlands International and FIBA are largely coordinated through the PRCM, and together cover a range of significant actions, including the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), capacity-building and monitoring of breeding birds.

g. Abidjan Convention

The Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central and Southern African Region (also known as the Abidjan Convention), and its protocol concerning cooperating in combating pollution in cases of emergency -came into force in 1984, covering 22 coastal states from Mauritania to South Africa. It is a comprehensive umbrella agreement for the protection and management of the marine and coastal area, and aims to address pollution, overfishing, control of fish stocks, coastal-based tourism, coastal erosion, specially protected areas and environmental impact assessment. As the focal area of the Abidjan Convention matches closely the East Atlantic Flyway in Africa, it is of direct relevance for the implementation of the WSFI Action Plan.

h. Other agreements and activities

Other international agreements also have influence on the WSFI, and these are described elsewhere, as well as their relationship to the Wadden Sea (e.g. in: Boere C. G. 2010. Programme Plan 'Towards a healthy Wadden Sea ecosystem for nature and man').

4.2 On-going Activities

a. WSFI West Africa projects (2012-2015)

Two WSFI projects are underway focused on monitoring and capacity-building:

- WSFI monitoring project:

The project objective is informing policy and management with timely and accurate information about the status of waterbird populations along the East Atlantic Flyway. Through integrated monitoring of population sizes, demographic rates and environmental conditions, information relevant to management and conservation at flyway and site level is generated. Methods and framework are largely based on the existing International Waterbird Census (Wetlands International) and Important Bird Areas (BirdLife International). For the monitoring of demographic parameters several methods are available but a framework for cooperation needs to be developed.

The geographic regions of importance to get sufficient monitoring data for reliable assessment are the Arctic, Western Europe, West Africa and Africa further south. In 2012 - 2014 the project is focussed on preparing plans and strategies, but also on concrete furthering the development of monitoring in coastal West Africa. To date, jointly with the CMB project, a regional workshop in June 2012 (Dakar) was organized with the development of a monitoring strategy for the region as output, a successful training course on field techniques and monitoring skills was held in Mauritania in December 2012 and in January 2013 counts were conducted at a selection of sites. Currently preparations are underway for a simultaneous count of all key sites in January 2014.

- WSFI capacity building project:

The project objective is to intensify cooperation for the protection of waterbirds along the East Atlantic Flyway, with a special focus on capacity-building, improvement of area management and sustainable development in Western Africa. The need for building capacity in the coastal zone of Africa is well established, supported by training needs analyses, including those carried out under development of the WOW and CMB projects (see below). The main focus areas of the project are to deliver national and regional training courses, develop capacity-building materials, establish site management guidelines for migratory waterbird conservation and carry out small-scale awareness and pilot management events. To date, two national courses have been held in

Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone (including participants from Liberia), whilst support was also provided to the WSFI monitoring project / CMB regional course in Mauritania. Future planned activities include a national training course in Angola, a regional management and Training of Trainers workshop (jointly with CMB) and development of an East Atlantic Flyway waterbird guide.

Both projects aim to support each other through collaborative activities and in full partnership with the Conservation of Migratory Birds (CMB) project (see below).

b. Conservation of Migratory Birds (CMB) project (2010-2014)

CMB project coordinated by BirdLife International and in cooperation with Wetlands International is an NGO-government partnership for migratory bird conservation along the coast of West Africa. The project is about strengthening networks to improve the knowledge and conservation status of migratory birds through comprehensive programmes of integrated research, monitoring and conservation action. It is participatory, and engages relevant stakeholders through site-based projects and an overarching policy and advocacy programme. It also builds technical capacity in the region for migratory bird conservation through training and exchange programmes, in which local community groups are engaged. To date, a scientific review of migratory birds and their habitat was produced; it is a baseline for monitoring of migratory birds and their habitats, and gives recommendations for research in the region. A number of trainings on monitoring at regional and national level were organised including the regional field training in Mauritania jointly with WSFI projects, national training courses on migratory birds in Guinea and Senegal. National NGOs in the 7 countries covered by the project are implementing small grants at key sites for migratory birds and its activities are mainly focused on monitoring, habitat restoration, awareness and capacity building of local communities. Development of national species action plans (Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Spoonbill, Lesser Flamingo and Black Crown Crane) are underway and the one on Cape Verde Shearwater planned.

- A WSFI/CMB Communication Plan has been developed, which aims to:
 - inform stakeholders, partners and donors about migratory birds and their urgent conservation needs, and to inspire them to support conservation action;
 - consolidate the achievements of WSFI and CMB for migratory bird conservation along the East Atlantic Flyway, especially in west Africa and to create momentum for continuation;
 - promote the World Heritage status of the Wadden Sea and its linkages with other World Heritage Sites along the flyway.

c. International Waterbird Census (IWC) and Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme

The IWC is a global monitoring programme coordinated by Wetlands International. In Africa – Eurasia it is part of the African –Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring partnership. It has run since 1967 and today covers over 25,000 sites in more than 100 countries. In each country national coordinators work with a network of professional and amateur counters to provide waterbird counts to the IWC. In total, more than 15,000 people submit their data annually, making this one of the largest monitoring schemes largely based on citizen science. Most countries of the East Atlantic Flyway participate in the IWC, which serves as a central repository for waterbird count data – essential in estimating population sizes and trends. The main period for coordinated counts is in January each year. In Sub-Saharan Africa a July count is also organized.

The IBA programme is coordinated by BirdLife International and aims to identify and monitor sites critical for the long-term viability of wild bird populations, across the range of those bird species for which a sites-based approach is appropriate. Many of the sites identified qualify also as Ramsar site, Special Protected Area under the EU Birds Directive or other site protection schemes. Worldwide more than 11,000 IBA's have been identified. The IBA monitoring especially

in countries with a national BirdLife partner is conducted following a systematic approach describing developments at the sites related to state, pressures and conservation responses. A selection of countries of the East-Atlantic Flyway is participating in this programme but improvements in coverage are desirable.

d. Wings Over Wetlands

The Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) project, GEF-UNEP funded, was the first international, flyway-scale wetland and waterbird conservation initiative of the African-Eurasian region implemented by Wetlands International, BirdLife International, AEWA and Ramsar Secretariats. The four year project (2006 - 2010) was a partnership among international conservation organizations and national governments, which aimed to improve and conserve healthy and viable populations of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds. Two key outputs still serve as useful resources for implementing flyway activities under the WSFI, notably the Flyway Training Kit and the Critical Site Network Tool.

e. New initiatives

Other initiatives and actions also take place all along the East Atlantic Flyway, between the Arctic and Southern Africa, and at the Wadden Sea itself; many of these are covered by Boere (2010). New developments relevant to the coastal zone in West Africa include:

- The Wetlands International project ‘From the Arctic to Africa: migratory birds connecting wetlands and people’, which aims to improve the conservation of waterbirds through bringing together site managers across the flyway from Africa, the EU and Russia through facilitating networking and through provision of training on flyway issues building on the WOW project. This project also aims to improve the management of two critically important areas – the Senegal River Delta and the Nenets Autonomous Okrug in Northwest Russia.
- The Zones Humides et Oiseaux Migrateurs en Afrique Sub-Saharienne / Sahélienne (ZHOMASS) project is under development, coordinated by the French National Agency for Hunting and Wildlife (ONCFS). It aims to strengthen capacity for the monitoring and wise use of wetlands and waterbirds in the Sahel zone.
- “Migratory Birds for People Initiative” coordinated by Wetlands Link International, Wetlands International, Staatsbosbeheer which aims to develop an effective network of visitor centres across the East Atlantic flyway connecting people to birds and promoting the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. More information on <http://wli.wwt.org.uk/regions/europe/europe-regional-initiatives/migratory-birds-for-people-programme/>
- “Enhancing the protection of birds and their habitats in marine and coastal environments of the Abidjan Convention region” is a joint initiative in development of BirdLife International and Abidjan Convention with an objective of developing a regional synthesis report on the status of birds and their habitats in the ABC Region.

5. Objectives

a. Wilhelmshaven 2011 workshop recommendations

The Wilhelmshaven 2011 workshop report ‘Strengthening management and research along the African Eurasian Flyway’ provides the following practical recommendations for the Wadden Sea countries to implement the WHC request:

1. *Develop a vision on the interpretation and implementation of the WHC request.*
2. *Arrange a clear leadership for and coordination of the implementation of the WHC request.*
3. *Recruit more AEWA parties along the East Atlantic Flyway and support AEWA implementation.*

4. *Develop an integrated Training and Capacity Building Programme based on the flyway approach*
5. *Improve site management and wise use focussing on working with local communities*
6. *Develop an integrated Monitoring Programme*
7. *Develop further in-depth research for gaps in knowledge*

The first two recommendations have been taken on board already during implementation of the WSFI projects (2012-2014), whilst implementing recommendations four and six has also begun in cooperation with the CMB project in the coastal zone of West Africa.

b. WSFI objectives

Taking account the key flyway issues, the workshop recommendations and the results of initial projects, the following WSFI objectives are proposed:

1. Strengthen cooperation, coordination and communication along the East Atlantic Flyway
2. Establish an integrated flyway monitoring programme for the sustainable long-term monitoring of migratory waterbirds and their critical sites
3. Strengthen capacity along the East Atlantic Flyway in conservation, management and monitoring of migratory waterbirds and their critical sites
4. Promote conservation and wise use management of coastal resources and migratory waterbirds of the East Atlantic Flyway
5. Build awareness of the East Atlantic Flyway, and the value and connections of migratory waterbirds

6. Action Plan 2014 - 2020

a. Aim of the WSFI Action Plan

This Action Plan aims to guide future activities of the Trilateral Cooperation and WSFI partners along the East Atlantic Flyway (EAF) in fulfilment of the WSFI flyway vision through identifying priorities for action, highlighting proposed timescales and approximate costs of actions.

b. Scope of area and species

- Wadden Sea, East Atlantic Flyway (South Africa to Arctic)
- Wadden Sea bird species of the Joint Monitoring Migratory Bird and Breeding Bird Programme
- Waterbirds of the East Atlantic Flyway

c. WSFI Partners

- Signatories of the vision
- The World Heritage network
- Principal implementation partners
- Open for new partners.

d. Action Plan WSFI 2014-2020

No.	Action	When	Costs	Priority
1	Strengthen cooperation, coordination and communication along the East Atlantic Flyway			
1.1	Develop and review a framework of cooperation for implementing the WSFI vision and Action Plan	2014	low	high
1.2	Establish working partnership with AEWA, especially the AEWA African Initiative for implementing the AEWA Action Plan for Africa	2014-2015	low	medium
1.3	Strengthen communication and links between East Atlantic Flyway World Heritage Sites	2014-2020	low	medium
1.4	Establish working partnerships for implementation of the Action Plan, especially BirdLife International and Wetlands International in 'post-CMB scenario'	2014-2015	low	high
1.5	Establish and maintain close cooperation with relevant MEAs, notably AEWA, CMS, Ramsar, CAFF and the Abidjan Convention	2014-2020	low	medium
1.6	Strengthen links with Wadden Sea partners for collaborate flyway research and monitoring	2014-2020	low	medium
1.7	Ensure professional guidance through WSFI Steering Group and Advisory Board	2014-2020	low	high
2	Establish an integrated flyway monitoring programme for the East Atlantic Flyway			
2.1	Strengthen and support international and national waterbird and site monitoring coordination structures	2014-2020	medium	high
2.2	Strengthen and increase capacity for monitoring, especially in coastal Western Africa and the Arctic	2014-2020	high	high
2.3	Carry out annual waterbird counts at an expanding network of selected sites along the East Atlantic Flyway, including expanding efforts in Western Africa and counts in other months than January	2014 - 2020	medium	high
2.4	Integrate monitoring of waterbird abundance with monitoring of environmental factors, threats and conservation actions	2014 - 2020	medium	high
2.5	Carry out a repeated (once in six years) total waterbird count (all key sites) of the East Atlantic Flyway in January 2019	January 2019	high	high
2.6	Initiate and conduct monitoring of vital rates of coastal waterbirds in the East Atlantic Flyway, start consortium and some pilot projects	2014 - 2020	medium	medium
2.7	Ensure timely integration of data into IWC and IBA databases and support their further development and utilisation	2014 - 2020	low	medium
2.8	Carry out and publish an East Atlantic flyway quality assessment	2019	medium	high
2.9	Integration of monitoring results in QSR Wadden Sea and arrange availability of flyway trends	2014 - 2020	low	high
2.10	Strengthen and support monitoring of migratory waterbirds in Arctic breeding grounds (support the Arctic Breeding Bird Survey)	2016	medium	high
2.11	Contribute to knowledge about migration and connectivity between sites along the East Atlantic Flyway	2014 - 2020	medium	medium

No.	Action	When	Costs	Priority
3	Strengthen capacity along the East Atlantic Flyway in conservation, management of migratory waterbirds and their critical sites			
3.1	Plan the implementation of an integrated capacity building programme for the East Atlantic Flyway, especially in Africa and Russia	2014-2015	medium	high
3.2	Strengthen the network of site managers along the East Atlantic Flyway through regional training and support, especially in site management	2014, Project	medium	medium
3.3	Support the further development of NGOs through advocacy training in cooperation with BirdLife	2016 - 2019	high	high
3.4	Support site-based training for integrating communities into site management and monitoring (citizen support)	2016 - 2020	high	medium
3.5	Ensure use of existing training tools, especially the Flyway Training Kit and the ONCFS Tool Kit	2014-2020	low	medium
4	Promote conservation and wise use management of coastal resources and migratory waterbirds of the East Atlantic Flyway			
4.1	Develop management plans for selected wetlands of the East Atlantic Flyway and support their implementation	2014 - 2020	medium	high
4.2	Establish and implement practical twinning mechanisms for site exchange and management, especially between the Wadden Sea, Banc d'Arguin and Bijagos	2014 - 2020	medium	high
4.3	Support and promote important waterbird sites in Arctic, Russia, West and South Africa in becoming marine World Heritage sites.	2014 - 2020	low	high
4.4	Strengthen partnerships for building flyway conservation into sectoral management policies and plans (e.g. agriculture, hunting, mining)	2014 -2020	medium	medium
4.5	Develop sustainable tourism initiatives focused on migratory birds / coastal wetlands along the East Atlantic Flyway	2014 - 2017	medium	medium
4.6	Support procedures for impact assessments, climate change research and pollution preparedness, especially in West Africa	2014 - 2020	medium	medium
4.7	Support and implement migratory waterbird Species Action Plans	2014 - 2020	high	medium
5	Build awareness of the East Atlantic Flyway, and of the value and connections of migratory waterbirds			
5.1	Implement the WSFI / CMB Flyway Communication Plan	2014	low	high
5.2	Hold awareness raising seminars for policy makers	2014 - 2020	high	medium
5.3	Develop flyway educational material in appropriate languages for use along the flyway	2014 - 2018	medium	high
5.4	Organise / support activities linked to annual migratory bird events, e.g. WMBD, Migratory Birds and Brent Goose Days (Germany)	2014 - 2020	low	high
5.5	Establish and actively update the WSFI website and establish networking arrangements with other flyway websites	2014 - 2020	low	high
5.6	Organise special awareness campaigns with other partners	2015, 2018, 2020	high	medium
5.7	Produce awareness raising outputs focused on the East Atlantic Flyway, such as a film, flyers, atlas, posters and games, also linked to the campaigns	2014 - 2020	low-medium	high

Annex 2

Advisory Board of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

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